



Qatar Voluntary National Review 2021

Report on the implementation
of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development



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Preface



I am pleased to present to the readers Qatar Voluntary National Review Report 2021, which shows the progress made by Qatar in achieving the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, mainly the progress achieved in the goals set to be discussed in the High-Level Political Forum 2021. In addition to the challenges faced in achieving our development aspirations, the report will also focus on the economic, social and environmental impacts of the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the measures taken by the government, enabling it to deal with this crisis efficiently. The VNR report also addresses future work required to achieve the remaining SDGs before 2030 by aligning these SDGs with the goals of the forthcoming Third National Development Strategy 2023-2027, which is currently being prepared. This, in turn, reflects the commitment of the State of Qatar to link the National Action Program with the international development agenda.

I would like here to emphasize that the SDGs achieved so far have been the result of effective partnership between the government and private sectors, civil society organizations, academia and research centers, and both citizens and residents in order to support the State's march in achieving sustainable development and a promising future for all, where no one is left behind, as we all realize that sustainable development is a strategic choice to ensure the realization of human rights. In this context, the VNR shows that the social segments in the State of Qatar are an integral part of the comprehensive development plan, as they are both participants in its formulation and beneficiaries of its gains

The VNR deals with the pioneering efforts of the State of Qatar in revitalizing Partnership for Development and supporting the achievement of SDGs in developing countries by providing urgent relief assistance to the affected countries, especially in times of emergency and crises. In addition, flexible measures for workers have been applied in Qatar to make the necessary financial remittances to their countries seamless, as Qatar realizes that these remittances contribute to supporting the implementation of national development goals in those countries. Furthermore, the State of Qatar has a distinguished strategic partnership with the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, which have benefited from Qatar's

generous contributions through a number of development and humanitarian organizations in order to achieve justice, peace and stability at the regional and international levels.

The VNR highlights as well Qatar's hosting of the World Cup in 2022, which is considered one of the most important global partnerships that will leave a remarkable national legacy, and will provide Qatar and the peoples of the region with opportunities to spread a sustainable message of welcome to millions of people around the world and build bridges of love and peace and promote tolerance, respect and understanding between civilizations. Hosting this amazing global event is also an opportunity for Qatar to display its national identity and highlight its global position through sport.

Given the importance of providing information and data necessary for monitoring, follow-up and evaluation processes in achieving the desired development goals, the VNR will show the progress of the State's statistical and research capabilities, as well as modernization and development projects in a way that contributes to enhancing the enabling environment for development.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all government institutions in Qatar, the private sector, civil society organizations, universities and research centers that have contributed to the preparation of this VNR. I would also like to thank the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) for its practical guidance, tireless follow-up and dedication of this important work, and for the workshops it organized to support countries in preparing the Voluntary National Reviews. Finally, I extend thanks to my colleagues in the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) for their great effort in preparing this VNR.

Dr. Saleh M. Al Nabit

President of the Planning and Statistics Authority

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List of abbreviations

- ACTA: Administrative Control and Transparency Authority
- AIC: Airports Council International
- AIDS: Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- ATMs: Automated Teller Machines
- CCPCJ: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- CCS: Carbon Capture and Sequestration
- CNG: Compressed Natural Gas
- COOP 18: Conference of Parties 2018
- COVAX: COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access
- COVAX AMC: Covax Advance Market Commitment
- CRA: Communications Regulatory Authority
- CCPCJ: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- CRPD: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- DI: Doha Institute
- DTP: Diphtheria-tetanus-Pertussis
- EAA: Education Above All
- EAC: Educate A Child
- ECOSOC: Economic and Social Council
- EU: European Union
- FINA: Federation Internationale de Navigation
- GAVI: Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
- GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council
- GDI: Gender Development Index
- GDP: Gross domestic product
- GHGs: Greenhouse Gases
- GII: Global Innovation Index
- GII: Gender Inequality Index
- GNI: Gross National Income
- GSBPM: Generic Statistical Business Process Model
- GW: Gigawatt
- HBKU: Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- HEIS: Household Expenditure and Income Survey
- HIA: Hamad International Airport
- HMC: Hamad Medical Corporation
- HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- IARC: International Agency for Research on Cancer
- ICT: Information and Communications Technology
- IHR: International Health Regulations
- ILO: International Labour Organization
- IOM: International Organization for Migration
- IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- KAHRAMAA: Qatar General Electricity & water Corporation
- KAP: KAHRAMAA Awareness Park
- LDAR: Leak Detection and Repair
- LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environment Design
- LNG: Liquidized Natural Gas
- MADLSA: Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour & Social Affairs
- MCV2: Measles-Containing-Vaccine Second Dose
- MEHE: Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- MENAFATF: Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force
- MPH: Ministry of Public Health
- MGP: Methane Guiding Principles
- MOFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- MOI: Ministry of Interior
- MoTC: Ministry of Transport and Communications
- MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
- MRC: Medical Research Center
- MW: Megawatt
- NAMLC: National Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Committee
- NDS: National Development Strategy
- NORM: Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material
- NHRC: National Human Rights Committee
- NDS-1: The First National Development Strategy 2011-2016
- NDS-2: The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022
- NDS-3: The Third National Development Strategy 2023-2027
- NRI: Network readiness Index
- OECD: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- OGMP: Oil and Gas Methane Partnership
- OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- OGI: Optical Gas Imaging
- PSA: Planning and Statistics Authority
- PV: Photovoltaic
- QCB: Qatar Central Bank
- QF: Qatar Foundation
- QFFD: Qatar Fund for Development
- QNRF: Qatar National Research Fund
- QP: Qatar Petroleum
- QEERI: Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute
- QGBC: Qatar Green Building Council
- QNV 2030: Qatar National Vision 2030
- QRCS: Qatar Red Crescent
- QREDI: Qatar Research, Development and Innovation
- QNRF: Qatar National Research Fund
- QSTP: Qatar Science & Technology Park
- QU: Qatar University
- R&D: Research and Development
- SAB: State Audit Bureau
- SC: Supreme Committee
- SCP: Sustainable Consumption and Production
- SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
- SDG12: Sustainable Development Goal Number 12
- SLR: Sea Level Rise
- 10YFP: 10-Year Framework of Programmes
- TSE: Treated Sewage Effluent
- TRIPS: Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
- UNCAC: United Nations Convention against Corruption
- UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
- UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNFPA: The United Nations Population Fund
- UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency
- UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
- UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNOCT: United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
- UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Services
- UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
- UNTOC: United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- VNR: National Voluntary Review
- WHO: World Health Organization
- WTTC: World Travel and Tourism Council in London

Introduction

The State of Qatar participates in the activities of The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021 with the aim of sharing experiences and best practices with the international community in its march towards achieving The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Qatar is eager to review the various national efforts in achieving sustainable development and Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030) which has adopted the pillars of sustainable economic, social and environmental development as an approach to defining its future. Qatar National Vision 2030 has envisioned a vibrant and prosperous society where economic and social justice prevails and balance between the environment and the human being is observed. QNV 2030 came as a result of focused consultations that adopted participatory methodology for setting priorities, as many segments of Qatari society, including government and non-government agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations and academic institutions, participated in the discussions. As a result of QNV 2030, The First National Development Strategy 2011-2016 and The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 emanated. Both strategies followed the same approach in terms of ensuring the participation of all in setting priorities and studying the current situation, leading to the proposal of the main results and specific goals and the set of programs and projects that they achieve. The Third National Development Strategy 2023-2027 will ensure that the same frameworks and standards are followed. Given the alignment of Qatar's Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 with the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the implementation of this Agenda has become an integral part of the strategy implementation process and following-up on progress made is of equal importance.

The VNR Preparation Methodology

Work began on preparing this VNR by coordinating with both the Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to clarify the Planning and Statistics Authority's readiness to start work on preparing Qatar Voluntary National Review 2021. Then discussions began on the action plan and the roadmap to start the implementation process. This included the formation of the Steering Committee which enclosed both the Advisory Statistics Committee and the Permanent Population Committee. More than (17) entities representing the government sector, the private sector, the civil society organizations and academic institutions, are members in both committees. The Steering Committee's main tasks included providing the necessary support to assist in preparing the VNR 2021; propose mechanisms and means that will strengthen the national partnership to monitor progress in implementing the SDGs 2030; assist in providing information related to policies, strategies and good practices; follow-up on progress made in preparing the VNR; and provide advice on the content of the draft VNR.

Guides for the tasks and responsibilities of the Steering Committee, the technical work team, and the sub-working groups were prepared, in addition to the preparation of terms of reference for the tasks of review, editing and translation. The tasks and responsibilities of the technical work team included attending team meetings; understanding the nature of the report and its goals; participating in the preparation of the action plan; suggesting means to reinforce the VNR with information and evidence; and contributing to writing the tracking of the implementation of the nine goals of the VNR and their annexes. As for the tasks of the sub-working groups, they included reviewing the reports of the working groups and expressing opinion thereon; ensuring accuracy of qualitative and quantitative data used in the reports; participating in preparing the report and related key messages; expressing opinion on editing, translation and design of the VNR and final review of draft VNR and messages. A form was prepared to collect data from various authorities in the country that dealt with the progress made in achieving the goals and targets of The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 as well as the various national efforts in containing the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and countering its effects. After the process of identifying the concerned parties (stakeholders) from ministries, government agencies, the private sector, NGOs, civil society, academia and research centers contributing to the preparation of the VNR, and after

determining the role of each of them and their relationship to each of the goals set for this year, the form was sent to more than (25) government and non-government agencies in order to ensure the participation of all segments of society in clarifying the national efforts and contributions in implementing the Agenda and confronting the effects of the pandemic.

In terms of the VNR preparation methodology, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Handbook for Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews 2021¹ was followed, in addition to applying best practices in preparing voluntary reports and attending some regional and international workshops that dealt with preparing the VNR and following up on the progress made in the preparation process. We mention, for example, the Virtual Workshop on Preparing Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews (indicators, strategies and adopted policies) in 2021, and the Virtual Workshop on "Voluntary National Reviews in the Arab Region" organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

With regards to knowledge exchange activities, we participated in some forums and workshops related to sustainable development, including the sessions of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2021, and the SDG Investment Fair 2021 program project. In the field of building statistical capacity related to measurement, monitoring and reporting issues on sustainable development goals and related targets and indicators, a series of meetings with United Nations organizations were virtually attended to review and determine the current status of each indicator of The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the challenges facing the process of preparing these indicators.

These measures were accompanied by the collection of quantitative and qualitative data, the assessment of the availability of the SDGs 2030 indicators and the inventory of gaps in preparation for taking appropriate steps in this regard. In addition, a platform for the indicators of The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and its identifying data was developed, reports related to the progress made in the implementation process were prepared, whether those reports related to SDGs in Qatar or to The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, qualitative strategies and policies adopted by the State since the outbreak of the pandemic were provided, and some regional and international reports were reviewed. A webinar on "Methods of measuring SDG 11 and the new urban plan in the countries of The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)" organized by The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) was also attended, as well as filling up the questionnaire on SDG 11. In response to the calls made by The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs regarding the e-platform for measures to accelerate the SDGs and the survey to collect information on good practices in SDGs implementation, Qatar registered and reviewed its commitments or new initiatives that aim to accelerate the implementation of SDGs as well as showcasing some of its successful practices and experiences in this regard.

(1) https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27024Handbook_2021_EN.pdf

Executive Summary

While the State of Qatar is free from the phenomena of extreme poverty, absolute poverty and multidimensional deprivation, and based on the social development pillar of QNV 2030, the main attention of Qatar's Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 is focused on implementing policies concerned with prevention and protection from other poverty phenomena through the development of a social protection strategy that is consistent with the principles and goals of the International Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Based on the experiences learned from The First National Development Strategy 2011-2016, the strategy aimed to complete the building of an "effective social protection system for all Qataris, which takes care of their civil rights, values their effective participation in the development of society and secures them sufficient income to maintain dignity and health."

The State of Qatar has managed to develop an elaborate social protection system with an active participation of civil society organizations and the private sector in the country, in addition to providing health and education services for all, which led Qatar to achieve an advanced position in the Human Development Index year after year, as it ranked 45 out of 189 countries in 2020. However, there is still an urgent need for a continuous effort to update and develop legislation so as to enhance the social and economic integration of vulnerable groups in society, and to ensure sustainable resources of the social protection system, as a commitment by the State of Qatar to ensure that none of its citizens lag behind development. This is what is currently being implemented by the authorities concerned with implementing the programs and projects of The Social Protection Sector Strategy 2018-2022. Work on this approach will continue in Qatar's future development strategies.

All residents of Qatar enjoy enough good quality food. As food security is considered one of the most important and prominent developmental issues in the State being one of the dimensions of hunger eradication goal of The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, Qatar has set the goal of reaching 70% food self-sufficiency by 2023 and achieving 100% food security by 2030, making the issue of food security a priority for sustainable development. On the developmental level, food security is considered as a basic pillar of security and economic independence for the State and a key pillar to secure the food needs of its residents, especially after the country was subjected to more than two years of political, land and air blockade by regional countries. Therefore, Qatar has developed its National Food Security Strategy 2018-2023 within the framework of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 with the aim of unifying the efforts of the relevant authorities in this sector and achieving the optimal use of the country's natural and water resources, protecting the food security system against shocks in emergency situations, setting priorities for food security initiatives and projects, protecting and promoting local production, improving food quality and safety, and providing safe and healthy strategic stocks. Thanks to these policies, Qatar's international ranking jumped from 22nd in 2018 to 13th in 2019 in the Food Security Index out of 113 countries, and first in the region among 22 Arab countries. On the local level, the agricultural sector has recently witnessed a large productivity boom (vegetables, livestock, fish), which has contributed to achieving food security and high levels of self-sufficiency. During the period 2017-2019, self-sufficiency ratios of local vegetable production increased from about 20% to 27%, milk production from 28% to 106%, red meat from 13% to 18%, and fish production reached 74%. However, there are challenges that Qatar faces in achieving targets related to sustainable agriculture and nutrition. The desert climatic conditions and the scarcity of natural resources of irrigation water and arable lands limit the State's ambitions to expand agricultural production. Qatar endeavours to find solutions using non-traditional methods such as hydroponics and green houses. On the level of improved nutrition, the State faces challenges related to food health and safety for some population segments, as Qatar imports nearly 90% of its residents' needs from abroad.

The State of Qatar has made remarkable achievements in preventive physical and psychological care in various fields, including early detection of diseases, encouraging the public to practice

healthy behaviours, and improving transparency regarding patients' rights and responsibilities. Qatar has also made tangible achievements as the index of availability of basic health services has reached complete inclusion (100%) for the entire population covered by primary health care. Mortality rates due to environmental hazards have also decreased to very low levels. Qatar has further achieved a significant reduction in the rate of deaths due to traffic accidents to less than half the global rate. At the same time, the aid provided in the field of health and welfare increased by a significant percentage.

The prosperity of the Qatari economy is not only due to the abundance of natural hydrocarbon resources, but also due to the existence of an efficient administrative system, political stability, social harmony and distinguished international relations. These features enabled the State of Qatar to benefit from its natural resources in local manufacturing and foreign trade, and to provide high levels of banking, transport, communications, education and health services, raising the standard of living for the population. The growth of these economic activities has contributed to the expansion of the scope of local and foreign investments, and the provision of job opportunities in various fields available to all international labor markets. Qatar's international development partners have also played a pivotal role in the process of economic and social development, whether in providing financing and expertise, or skilled and unskilled labor. It is worth noting that since the adoption of the 17 SDGs in 2015, the State of Qatar has faced three economic shocks: twice from a sharp drop in energy prices, and an economic blockade that lasted three and a half years; and the implications of the epidemic on health and the economy. To overcome these challenges, Qatar has deployed its financial and non-financial capabilities to reduce the negative effects on the living standards of the population and on macroeconomic stability. Among the actions taken are the following:

- Increasing capital spending on economic diversification projects and infrastructure, which acted as a financial incentive for economic activities.
- Implementing a package of reforms to improve the business environment, protect workers' rights and duties, raise the efficiency of resource use, and increase financial and administrative discipline.

This has led to an increase in the level of productivity of some sectors, and an expansion in the use of technology and innovation in several areas, including small and medium industries, banking services, communications, transport and other productive activities. In addition, these measures contributed to mitigating the severity of the decline in real per capita GDP from an average of negative 4.7% during the period 2015-2017 to an average of negative 0.35% during the period 2018-2019, before it intensified due to the repercussions of the epidemic containment measures in 2020 to negative 1.69%. The participatory approach was also used to involve stakeholders in contributing to overcoming these shocks, in partnership with the private sector, civil society or local communities, which contributed to moving forward towards diversifying the economy and enhancing food security towards self-sufficiency of some agricultural and industrial food commodities. This participatory approach has further contributed to citizens and residents' commitment to the preventive measures imposed by the government during the first wave, in addition to harnessing the financial, health and media capabilities of the State in order to enhance economic stability and reduce and treat infected cases. As a result of these measures, the shock to economic activities was alleviated, and at least 98% of the infected cases recovered, with less than 250 deaths in a country with more than 143,830 cases by December 2020. On the labor side, employment policies, the development of labor market legislation, encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation, encouraging women's participation in the workforce, taking effective measures to eliminate forced labor, slavery and human trafficking, and promoting the occupational health and safety of workers have all been critical factors in realizing the goal of achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men in the State of Qatar by 2030.

Qatar National Vision 2030 aims to achieve sustainable economic development from the perspective of equality and social justice, as embodied in the constitution. The policies, programs

and projects of national development strategies as a whole aim to improve the well-being of the Qatari society regardless of age, gender, race, religion or economic status. The State of Qatar has adopted several programs and legal amendments to address some imbalances in managing the affairs of a segment of expatriate workers, with the aim of improving their living conditions and protecting their financial and moral rights, such as raising the minimum wage, abolishing the sponsorship system, giving workers the ability to change jobs and residency, facilitating their movement, and enabling them to open bank accounts and remit their savings at the lowest costs. It is worth noting that while the Qatari economy benefits from the services of semi-skilled and unskilled workers, the countries that export such labor also benefit from financial returns and practical experiences that they gain while working in Qatar's development projects. As such, the total current transfers of expatriate workers (remittances) during the period 2011-2020 amounted to about \$ 113.4 billion, with an annual average of \$ 11.4 billion.

Many economic activities have been affected by measures to contain the Corona virus epidemic outbreak, but the most affected are the activities carried out by small and medium-sized enterprises with high labor intensity. To alleviate the crisis on workers, the government has established a national guarantees program as part of the economic policy package to face the repercussions of the epidemic with the aim of paying employees' salaries. This program has benefited more than 4 thousand companies which employ around 320 thousand employees. Despite the limited production base of the Qatari economy, and the heavy reliance on expatriate labor to do most productive and service work, inequality measured with the average Gini index indicates that it reached 0.41 during the period 2003-2012, which is acceptable and is subject to improvement when the need for unskilled expatriate labor decreases as a result of the completion of a large part of the infrastructure projects.

The State of Qatar has diversified its production base by developing economic infrastructure, encouraging investment, establishing industrial and service zones, supporting and developing small and medium-sized enterprises and increasing their contribution to diversifying the production base. At the same time, Qatar has been promoting a culture of rationalization and responsible consumption so that it becomes an integral part of people's lives all the way to building a balanced consumption pattern in Qatar. This approach is evident in the goals and initiatives of the national strategy drawn up by the State in the energy, water, food and waste management sector, as well as in the projects and initiatives implemented on the ground, including:

- The national program "Tarsheed" that aims to reduce energy and water consumption;
- Establishing a household solid waste treatment center in Mesaieed, which is the first integrated solid waste treatment facility in the Middle East. In 2020, the center produced more than 30,000 tons of organic fertilizer, and generated about 269,000 megawatts/hour of electrical energy, and more than 33 million cubic meters of biogas, in addition to treating more than 30,000 tons of car tires in each of the Umm al-Afaei landfill and Rawdat Rashed landfill, and recycling about 420,000 tons of construction waste.
- A strong will to host the World Cup 2022 in a way that guarantees sustainable production and consumption that leaves a legacy and practical experience that stimulates environmental sustainability at the level of Qatar, the region and the world.
- Noticeable progress in indicators of achieving food security and self-sufficiency, as the State of Qatar jumped to the 13th position in the world and first in the Arab world, according to the Global Food Security Index issued in December 2019
- Shifting to green building projects such as Qatar National Convention Center, Msheireb City and Lusail City as all of their buildings are environment-friendly. The State of Qatar ranked second in terms of the number of green and environment-friendly buildings in the Middle East and North Africa.

The State of Qatar is firmly committed to reducing global warming and addressing climate change. In this regard, it has invested in oil and gas exploration to make radical solutions for climate security at the local and global level through the production and export of natural gas, which is considered the cleanest type of fossil fuel and a high-quality energy source at a time when the world is moving towards renewable energy. Natural gas exports contribute to supporting sustainable development at the local and global levels. At the same time, Qatar is moving strongly to environment-friendly solutions including diversifying energy sources and investing in solar energy, moving to electric public transport system, shifting to green buildings and expanding natural solutions such as the One Million Tree Project. In this context, the State of Qatar is committed to preparing the first carbon-free World Cup 2022 through the use of a range of environment-friendly innovations such as sidewalks that generate electricity and seats made from recycled palm branches. With the end of the tournament, the State of Qatar pledges to rebuild these stadiums in developing countries. Qatar has ensured to have its own footprint in the field of renewable energy, as all World Cup stadiums, training facilities and fan-designated areas are equipped with cooling technology using solar energy.

The State of Qatar has also reached advanced ranks by achieving high evaluation rates in some axes, mainly: low rates of murder and violence, limiting the spread of crime in society, stable political conditions, building a society free from terrorism and its effects, and the absence of either threats or conflicts both internal or external. The State of Qatar has also maintained its top position for the third year in a row and for the fourth time in its history in the list of the most safe, secure and crime-free countries at the global and Arab levels in the NUMBEO World Database Encyclopedia 2021, out of 135 countries included in the classification. Qatar has the lowest number of crimes in the world, scoring 12.29 points in the crime index.

The World Cup, to be organized by the State of Qatar from 21 November to 18 December 2022, is considered one of the most important international partnerships, and one of the key drivers of achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development at the national level. It will leave an remarkable national legacy and provide an opportunity for Qatar and the peoples of the region to spread a message of sustainable welcome for millions of people around the world who will participate or attend this event in the stadiums, or watch through satellite channels. Qatar will present its unique Arab identity and national culture, building bridges of love and peace and promoting tolerance, respect, and understanding between civilizations.

In March 2020, the State of Qatar developed a national action plan to respond to the pandemic, aiming to prepare, follow up, respond and recover from the spread of this epidemic. It affirmed its commitment to support the guidance of the United Nations in this field and the importance of international cooperation to confront the Coronavirus pandemic through the global initiative to ensure rapid and equitable access to vaccines for all countries. Qatar has also developed a national electronic platform to display all information related to this pandemic, enabling it to address the issue and manage response well, and provide vaccines to the population in a timely manner.

With regards to research, development and innovation, the State of Qatar considers it one of the most important means that contribute to implementing the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and increasing productivity in The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 in accordance with QNV 2030. This field constitutes a major long-term lever for growth and contributes to achieving many goals and targets related to education, health, food security, the environment, investment in human capital and capacity building.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Response and Recovery

The epidemic spreads and invades all countries of the world, and it becomes out of countries and individuals' control. After seeing the direct negative impact on human health and on the performance of countries' economies and sustainable development projects therein, the World Health Organization realized these effects and others. On 30 January 2020, the WHO announced that the Coronavirus epidemic poses a serious threat to the global health system in all countries, as it began to appear in China, and then spread effectively beyond all geographical borders of countries arriving to the State of Qatar. The first case of Coronavirus infection in Qatar appeared on 29 February 2020, and cases began to increase at low rates until on 11 March where it jumped from 24 to 262 cases, which coincided with the WHO announcement that the Coronavirus epidemic has become an international pandemic, which prompted the Qatari government in the second half of March to gradually take preventive and precautionary measures in line with the spread of the pandemic. These efforts were culminated in a meeting of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management chaired by His Highness the Emir on 15 March 2020, which issued a set of preventive and precautionary measures, and a series of financial and monetary decisions in support of the continued performance of economic activities in the public and private sectors.

The State of Qatar, like the rest of the world, has faced great challenges as a result of the spread of the pandemic, such protecting lives and limiting the spread of this epidemic, on the one hand, and preserving the wheel of economic movement and securing individuals' livelihood, movement and businesses, on the other hand. The State of Qatar, under its wise leadership, and took the necessary measures effectively and quickly at the beginning of the pandemic spread, despite the potential for economic repercussions. Then, during the second quarter of 2020, it began to reduce social isolation and other measures.

The preventive and precautionary measures

Ministry of Education and Higher Education

The educational sector is one of the largest human sectors in the State of Qatar, due to its position and strategic importance that contributes to achieving sustainable social and economic growth and development with all its goals and targets in accordance with QNV 2030, as well as being a sector on which all other sectors that make up the integrated body of the state depend. Therefore, this sector must have permanent and continuous coordination - in light of the spread of the pandemic, with all sectors concerned with curative, preventive and precautionary control, especially with the health sector, to protect all its administrative and educational staff and students from this pandemic by all available means in accordance with the measures taken by the wise Qatari government under the directives of His Highness the Emir of the country.

Among the preventive and precautionary measures taken by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, in joint coordination with all sectors concerned with combating this pandemic, are the following:

First: Coordination and communication with the Ministry of Public Health

Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), in coordination with the competent authorities in the Ministry of Public Health (MPH), has formed teams to follow up developments and directives issued in this regard, to provide the MEHE and schools with the necessary instructions and directives, and to implement the MPH recommendations to suspend studies in some schools based on the number of infections and contacts, and to refer them to the Assistant Undersecretary for Shared Service Affairs, health. MEHE also participated with MPH in evaluating the implementation plan of precautionary measures to prevent Coronavirus infection in public and private schools and coordinated the influenza vaccination campaign for educational and administrative staff in primary schools.

Second: Precautionary and preventive measures to limit the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in MEHE and schools

Direct communication and coordination with MPH continued to sterilize and detect contacts in confirmed or suspected cases in MEHE or schools, isolation rooms were allocated for suspected cases of Coronavirus infection in MEHE and its administrative buildings, hand sanitizers were provided in MEHE premises and its administrative and educational buildings, daily examination and the temperature measurement were performed for all employees before entering the MEHE premises, ensuring that all employees and visitors show green “Ehteraz” application before entering MEHE building, and raising awareness in the audiovisual and read media by attending meetings and seminars.

Third: Remote work and distance learning procedures

The procedures include granting employees the authority to use VPN to work remotely, designing a user guide to clarify the mechanism for activating the use of the program, developing a distance learning portal (Qlearning), designing and developing a special portal for distance learning to facilitate students and parents’ access to all the services they need such as: YouTube channels, password change service and learning sources, increasing the internet speed in the QDC3 data center to help students access distance education applications, designing and uploading educational videos on the distance learning portal, which is a “guide” for teachers, students and parents on how to access “Microsoft Teams” program.

Fourth: Providing the requirements of precautionary and preventive measures to the MEHE and its administrative buildings and schools

The MEHE provided hygiene requirements and precautionary tools (thermometers) and personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, surface disinfectants) to MEHE premises and its administrative buildings, as well as schools to be used during the end-of-year exams for the 2019/2020 academic year.

Fifth: Preventive and precautionary measures in the exam centers for the end of the 2019/2020 academic year

The MEHE was keen to provide nursing staff for high school diploma examination centers and adult education centers, implementing the school health services program of the Primary Health Care Corporation, preparing a health and safety guide for the end-of-year tests for the 2019/2020 academic year, following up on cases of infection / suspected infection with coronavirus (COVID-19) in high school diploma examination centers and adult education centers, coordinating with the MPH, and providing appropriate quantities of (masks - gloves - hand sanitizers - surface disinfectants - thermometers) in the examination centers.

Sixth: Preparing for safe return to schools in the 2020/2021 academic year

The MEHE conceptualized general health and safety procedures for safe return to schools, prepared proposed scenarios for school feeding procedures for the academic year 2020/2021, prepared guidelines for preventive and precautionary measures in the school for the academic year 2020/2021, and circulated public schools with the mechanism for distributing the required number of students in school buses at 50% of the bus's capacity, and apply the preventive and precautionary measures to be adhered to.

In addition to the above, the MEHE, in coordination with the concerned authorities, conducted proactive examinations for students and workers in schools and the MEHE, rehabilitated and trained the educational and administrative staff in schools, and coordinated with the National Command Center (NCC) to follow up on all educational community groups (students or teachers) in the event of a confirmed infection or contact, followed up and supervised the readiness of schools and the implementation of all precautionary measures in the MEHE and the educational buildings, launched the educational platform (Mazeed) via the Internet, to ensure easy and quick access to learning resources, provided a bank of verified questions, launched the distance education portal (Q-Learning), provided computers and reduced the working hours of employees at workplace.

Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs (ADLSA)

The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs (ADLSA) developed and implemented a clear plan to protect ensure the safety of all categories of workers in the public and private sectors, and quickly responded to the health challenges of the crisis through awareness campaigns for workers and domestic workers, provided them with free health care, and tightened control and penalties for violators of health and safety measures and specifications. ADLSA also announced a set of directives on workers' safety and health, called on employers to conduct assessments of the risks of the virus outbreak, worked to strengthen dialogue with global trade union federations, and held regular semi-annual meetings with the World Federation of Trade Unions organized by the ILO project office in Doha, including a session dedicated to the implications of the pandemic.

During the period of closing commercial activities to confront the pandemic, Qatar Central Bank, in cooperation with ADLSA, issued instructions to banks to remove restrictions imposed on domestic workers to open bank accounts so that they can continue to receive their wages and send remittances to their countries.

Under the direction of the country's beloved leader, His Highness the Amir, the State of Qatar has set a clear and integrated policy to provide social protection for employers and all categories of workers without exception, by adopting a financial support package for the private sector with an amount of QR 75 billion, to ensure the sustainability of businesses and jobs, implement the labor guarantees program and punish violators.

During the pandemic crisis, ADLSA established an electronic platform to rotate workers in the local labor market in cooperation with Qatar Chamber, to provide the opportunity for companies that need new workers to contract with available workers who were dispensed with due to the repercussions of the pandemic. The new legislation has contributed to mitigating the effects of the pandemic on workers and companies during the period of airport closures and stopping recruitment operations. Because of the repercussions of the crisis, labor relations departments were forced to suspend their direct services to auditors, and to temporarily stop dispute resolution from hearing complaints during most of 2020. Therefore, ADLSA has been keen to develop its remote electronic services for the benefit of employers and workers.

Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance played its role in confronting this pandemic and continued to direct and focus financial support on the two sectors: education and health. The allocations of the two sectors represented 8.9% and 8.5%, respectively, of total expenditures. The total allocations for the health sector in the 2021 budget amounted to approximately QR 16.5 billion. In 2020, the State took a package of financial measures to limit the repercussions of the pandemic on public budget due to the decline in oil prices in global markets.

The State of Qatar, like the rest of the world, has rushed to contain this pandemic and its consequences and effects by providing the necessary funds for the health sector to limit and curb the spread of the pandemic. It has also provided financial support and took many measures to help the sectors that were directly and gravely affected, to be able to continue their activities in the short and medium terms to help end this pandemic, and the economic and trade movement returns to normal. This was part of the social protection programs by protecting small and medium-sized companies that are more vulnerable than large companies.

Qatar Red Crescent

Civil society organizations and non-profit societies in the State of Qatar, led by Qatar Red Crescent, have done their part to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, by supporting government institutions to keep pace with the requirements to mitigate these effects resulting from disease containment measures, by distributing basic food aid to the most affected groups, and providing assistance for those in dire need in the State of Qatar.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has played its assigned role to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic on all segments of the Qatari society, especially the affected businessmen, the poor, low-income people and others. The Ministry set a system for managing and controlling the strategic stocks of food and consumer goods through a unique national program that has enabled Qatar to adapt to various international developments, emergency situations and crises, whether local, regional or international, and the consequent natural disasters and health epidemics such as

the Coronavirus pandemic. The Ministry has also worked to strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors, to support Qatar's position to be one of the most prominent countries capable of planning accurately to manage projects that will increase its storage capabilities of food and consumer goods, and achieve food security.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

In response to the procedures and measures taken by the State of Qatar to suppress the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in light of the remarkable increasing demand on using the Internet during the pandemic, as technology has become a decisive tool in this unprecedented epidemiological conditions, the Ministry of Transport and Communications – within its mandate – has worked to effectively support the precautionary efforts made by the government, by launching a series of initiatives that contribute to ensuring the safety of Qatar citizens and residents.

This offered a valuable opportunity to make important strides in achieving some of Qatar's Digital Strategy goals, which revolve around digitizing government services and increasing coordination among government agencies. This was mirrored in the technical capacities of remote work in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and also directly contributed to the coordination among authorities to prepare certain technical applications, such as the “Nar'aakom” and “Ehteraz” applications.

Thanks to the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) and the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), the service providers have been directed to deal with companies (Ooredoo, Vodafone and Microsoft communication services) in response to the precautionary measures taken by the State, as more people are working from home. Moreover, the speed of Internet for users and mobile phone data has been doubled for individual and corporate customers. They also introduced new packages to connect users to Internet services to facilitate remote operation, while maintaining the quality of services free of additional charges.

Besides, a set of training tools for “Digital Inclusion” has been developed to share the skills identified within the framework of the training curriculum with the general public. This set of tools includes, inter alia, the contents through which specialized training programs in digital skills can be organized. The context and relevance of the programs can be deemed as a critical issue for those taking their first steps towards acquiring digital skills, especially those who are using the Internet for the first time, or who do not have a strong motivation to develop their digital skills. Such tools have been employed to communicate, spread awareness, and provide equal opportunities for the use of information technology to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, electronic applications have been developed to monitor cases of infection and recovery; coordinate virtual platforms for online medical checkups; secure food needs and living necessities; and conduct business in the public and private sectors; as well as support the education sector and other humanitarian and security activities to work remotely and through digital services.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications has also launched the “Kiosks Project”, which delivers state services to all citizens and private companies through kiosks throughout the country. In addition to digitizing services and self-service through kiosks, the kiosks have added a new channel of communication and cooperation between the state, beneficiaries and the private sector. These kiosks have contributed to a reduction in pressure on government centers. Also, they are self-service kiosks, which means that there is no human contact. All these steps are for the benefit of social distancing plans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Transport and Communications organized the Qatar Digital Government Training Program (QDGTP) through a series of virtual seminars and panels to shed light on the latest local and international research and technological applications related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the extent to which they are used to meet the challenges during this crisis. The 21 symposia and discussion panels, implemented in cooperation with national and

international academic institutions, targeted information technology employees in various government agencies.

This program, presented by a group of specialized experts and academics, comes within the framework of the efforts of the Ministry of Transport and Communications to support the ICT Sector in various government agencies to face the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis, understand the latest technologies, as well as refine the technological, technical and leadership skills of employees working in the ICT Sector. This will contribute to the achievement of the goals of Qatar Digital Government and building the desired digital future.

The Planning and Statistics Authority

As for PSA's statistical work during the pandemic, the State of Qatar has taken precautionary measures to prevent and limit the outbreak of the Coronavirus, in order to protect the health and safety of all members of society. In light of these precautionary measures based on Qatar National Preparedness and Response Plan for Communicable Diseases, the Cabinet issued a package of decisions in this regard, including reducing the number of government employees at workplace to 20 % of total number of employees in each entity to perform the necessary work for the regular functioning of public facilities, while 80% of employees perform their work from their homes or upon request, as the case may be, as of March 2020. Accordingly, the PSA has taken some alternative measures and work mechanisms for the purpose of conducting statistical work of all kinds, field or office alike. For example, with regard to field surveys, data is collected via phone, online forms and e-mail, and through direct linking with data sources. As for office work, new statistical data and indicators measuring the impact of the pandemic on some economic and social activities have been created, and work on the census project was resumed at the end of Q4, 2020.

In terms of the participation of other groups of society in obtaining statistical data in an interactive way, a modern application called "Qatar Statistics" was launched for smart mobile devices, which is available for free download on various types of devices running Android and IOS operating systems, in line with the start of field work for the General Population, Housing and Establishments Census project, "Qatar Census 2020". This application provides all users with a direct link to register in order to complete the data of "Qatar Census 2020" online in an easy, safe and fast manner without the need for a field researcher's visit to register households and individuals in the State. It is also fully linked to PSA's statistical work, as it contains various periodic data issued by PSA's Statistical Departments in terms of survey indicators, figures and results. The application allows a large amount of such data without the need for Internet connection, in addition to easily conducting statistical comparisons for a number of years for selected themes, with the ability to share many data through social media platforms and e-mail, as well as posting them to others through many modern means of communication. The application displays some statistical data in a non-traditional, interactive way, such as foreign trade statistics and data of a comprehensive set of maps for Qatar. Application users can contact and communicate directly with the PSA for inquiry or data request. It also provides user alert service when data is updated, or new data is released.

Qatar Central Bank

The Qatar Central Bank (QCB) has taken the necessary measures to address the economic effects of the pandemic, on the grounds of managing monetary policy by allocating a repo window of QR 50 billion at a zero rate for the purposes of providing liquidity to banks, to be used in postponing loan installments or granting new loans. Accordingly, QCB instructed all Qatar-based banks to postpone the due loan installments, and the interest arising therefrom for the affected sectors:

- Allocating guarantees in the amount of QR 3 billion to local banks to offer soft loans to affected small and medium-sized companies to help them pay salaries and rents (the National Guarantee Program to support the private sector);

- Instructing all Qatar-based banks to review and activate business continuity plans and evaluate them with potential business risks according to the stages of the pandemic's spread;
- Eliminating POS fees and ATM withdrawal fees;
- Eliminating all commissions and fees for using payment systems between money change centers and banks operating in the country;
- Issuing circulars to Qatar-based banks to enhance customer banking services via the Internet in order to avoid customers' visits to branches while ensuring business continuity;
- Forming a committee that follows up measures to limit the spread of the Coronavirus by communicating with Qatar-based financial institutions, following up and evaluating all recommendations and measures issued by the bank and addressing the obstacles that prevent their implementation;
- Reducing the bank's deposit rate and the repo purchase rate by 150 basis points each from 2.5% to 1.0%, and reducing the bank's lending rate by 250 basis points to 2.5%; to reduce the cost of lending and direct interest rates to the level required to facilitate an adequate flow of credit to the productive sectors.

Qatar Airways

Qatar Airways is one of the key actors, being an important logistic transport center in the State of Qatar through its remarkable role in shipping and securing the transport of basic supplies and aid, especially during the Coronavirus "COVID-19" pandemic. Qatar Airways has succeeded in transporting and returning millions of travelers to their home countries through thousands of flights, at a time when the pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for the global aviation sector, in addition to its role in shipping food aid and anti-epidemic supplies to dozens of countries around the world. Its role has not been limited to supporting the local community but has extended to the international community as well by ensuring the transport of medical personnel and supplies to some pandemic-affected countries. This comes in support of the important and pioneering role played by the State of Qatar in humanitarian aid and the international effort to combat the global pandemic.

Qatar Airways has been cooperating with the private sector, governments and partners in order to overcome the logistical challenges posed by the Coronavirus. It has significantly increased its operations during the pandemic to support global trade and transport relief shipments, vaccines, medicines, medical devices and vital supplies using its global network to many affected areas, in addition to operating scheduled cargo and passenger flights. Qatar Airways also uses passenger planes to transport cargo only and works to maintain vital global supply chains. It has transported more than 250,000 tons of medical supplies and aid to affected areas in recent months. This is equivalent to the cargo capacity of approximately 2,500 Boeing 777 freighters. In addition, it has operated more than 500 unscheduled cargo flights, since the beginning of the pandemic, to transport essential aid, medical supplies, food, live animals and other goods. It is worth noting that Qatar Airways was the first international airline to voluntarily deliver emergency aid shipments. This included convoys of cargo planes carrying medical supplies and relief aid in support of the development of several countries or through United Nations organizations, most notably the UNICEF.





1 NO
POVERTY



SDG 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the goal of ending poverty in all its forms and types has become a major challenge for most developing countries. Since extreme poverty as defined by the United Nations does not exist in the State of Qatar due to the high average relative poverty line, which equates to US\$ 1,450 per month, Qatar has focused on targets that would reduce the percentage of men, women and children of all ages who suffer from poverty and ensure the rights of vulnerable groups, especially women, to access economic and natural resources and services. The target of building the capacities of vulnerable groups by providing training and rehabilitation opportunities is one of the priorities of The Social Development Sector Strategy 2018-2022. What strengthens the chances of achieving the goal of ending poverty in Qatar before 2030 is the presence of an effective and integrated system of social protection in the country. The system acts as a linchpin for the prevention and protection from all manifestations of poverty while ensuring that all citizens have access to quality education and health services in the community. The policies and goals that Qatar is implementing within The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 will be presented later in this report. These policies and goals aim not only to protect society from poverty but also to integrate the vulnerable groups, and those most likely to be exposed to the manifestations of poverty, as participants in the national development process to ensure that no one is left behind.

The development policy makers in the State of Qatar realized earlier that poverty prevention does not only mean policies aimed at protecting against income poverty (the economic dimension), but that it also calls for work to integrate these policies into the pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030; and The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, with the aim of achieving social justice. Integrating vulnerable groups into society, and ensuring that no one is left behind in development. These policies are imbedded in the four pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030, namely: 1) The social development pillar, which aims to establish appropriate social welfare systems; 2) The human development pillar, which aims to provide opportunities for access to quality education, training and health; 3) The economic development pillar, which seeks to provide decent work opportunities and encourages projects and initiatives that ensure the participation of vulnerable groups in development; 4) The environmental development pillar, which aims to maintain the ecological balance through optimal exploitation of the country's natural resources.

Table (1.1) Alignment of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 goals with the targets of SDG1

Sector	Aligned Goals of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022	SDG1 Targets		
		1.1	1.2	1.3
Social Protection	Develop social protection systems and legislation within the limits of seven legislations by the end of 2022			
	Enhance job and social rehabilitation opportunities for vulnerable groups of working age and able to work, by 40% of total vulnerable groups during the period (2018-2022).			
	Operate 50% of the services provided at service delivery outlets during the period (2018-2022)			

While the State of Qatar is free from the phenomena of extreme poverty, absolute poverty and multidimensional deprivation, and based on the social development pillar of QNV 2030, the main attention of Qatar's Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 is focused on implementing policies concerned with prevention and protection from other poverty phenomena through the development of a social protection strategy that is consistent with the principles and goals of the International Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Based on the experiences gained from The First National Development Strategy 2011-2016, the strategy aimed to complete the building of an "effective social protection system for all Qataris, which takes care of their civil rights, values their effective participation in the development of society and secures them sufficient income to maintain dignity and health."

The State of Qatar has managed to develop an elaborate social protection system with an active participation of civil society organizations and the private sector in the country, in addition to providing health and education services for all, which led Qatar to achieve an advanced position in the Human Development Index year after year, as it ranked 45th out of 189 countries in 2020. However, there is still an urgent need for a continuous effort to update and develop legislation so as to enhance the social and economic integration of vulnerable groups in society, and to ensure sustainability of resources for the social protection system, as a commitment by the State of Qatar to ensure that none of its citizens is left behind. This is what is currently being implemented by the authorities concerned with carrying out the programs and projects of The Social Protection Sector Strategy 2018-2022. Work on this approach will continue in Qatar's future development strategies.

Box (1.1)

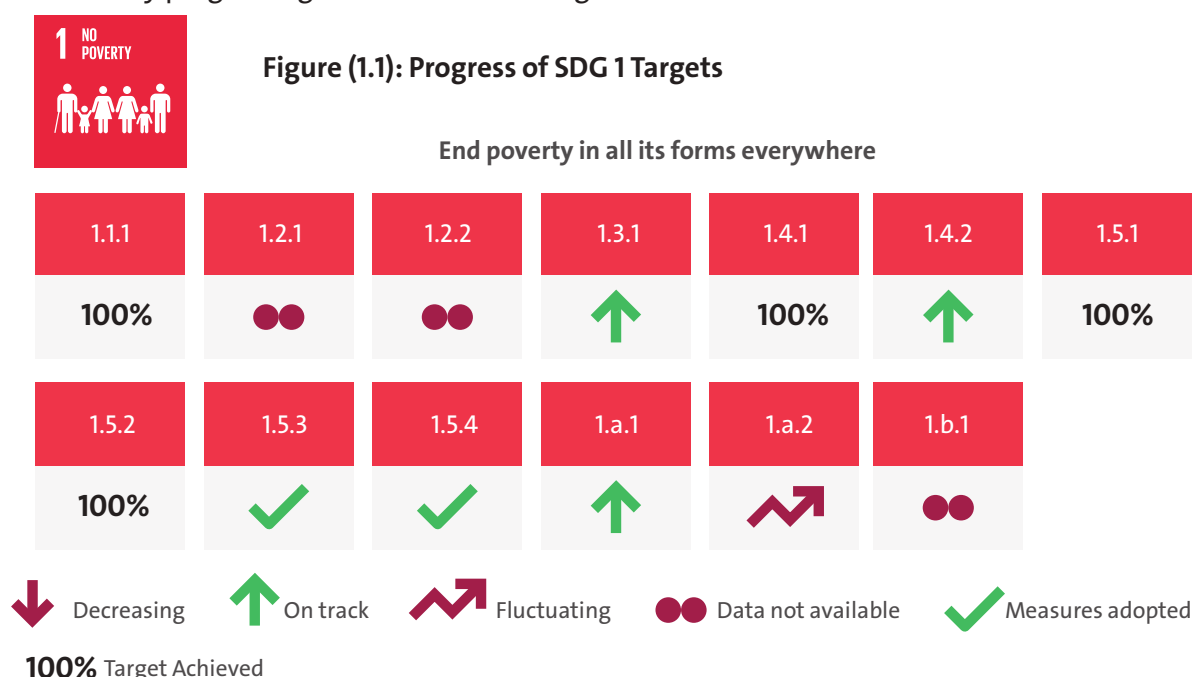
The goals of The Social Protection Sector Strategy 2018-2022 reflect the State's poverty prevention policies

The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs is working with its partners in the civil society sector and the private sector to oversee the implementation of The Social Protection Sector Strategy 2018-2022 which aims to achieve a set of integrated goals for social protection in the State of Qatar, namely:

1. Development of social protection systems and legislation within the limits of 7 legislations by the end of 2022;
2. Promote job and social rehabilitation opportunities for social welfare groups of working age and able to work, by 40% of total population until 2022;
3. Develop family and childhood related strategies by 2022;
4. Increase the number of social development centers to 3 by the end of 2022;
5. Encourage and support at least 3 distinct initiatives annually by 2022;
6. Increase the percentage of participation in voluntary work for all members of society by 20% by the end of 2022;
7. Increase the percentage of community participation in the charitable sector, endowment and civil society organizations by 10% by the end of 2022;
8. Enhance the voluntary social work and community participation by increasing the percentage of the number of private sector institutions and active civil society organizations by 20% by the end of 2022.

Achieved Progress

Figure (1.1) shows the status of progress achieved at the level of the targets of Goal 1.0. The State of Qatar has achieved four of the targets of SDG 1 by 100%, and the work to achieve targets 1.3, 1.4 and 1.a is steadily progressing to reach the desired goal.



The figure above also indicates that measures and strategies related to Target 1.5 which enhance the resilience of all the country's population and reduce their exposure to disaster risks have been adhered to. Regarding progress on Target 1.2, there is currently no recent data that would enable a review of what has been achieved in reducing the proportion of the poor. The latest approved data from the Expenditure and Income Survey 2012/2013 shows that the percentage of Qataris living below the relative poverty line amounted to 4.96%.

Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

The national relative poverty cut-off limit for a decent standard of living, i.e. the relative poverty line for Qataris, was estimated at QR 3,514 per month, equivalent to US\$ 950 per month, and the cut-off limit for limited income was estimated at QR 5,375, equivalent to US\$ 1,450 per month. Table (1.2) below shows that the percentage of low-income Qataris who suffer from relative poverty reached 8.04% of the population and 6.35% for households. By comparison, these percentages for the two groups decreased greatly using the standard of living based on expenditure data, reaching 4.96% and 3.02%, respectively.

Proportion of population living below the national poverty line by gender and age

Table (1.2) Measures of the low standard of living and limited income of Qatari individuals and households by intensity of poverty (2012/2013)

Category	Limited Income			Low Standard of Living		
	%	Gap	Intensity	%	Gap	Intensity
Qatari Individuals	8.04	1.68	0.56	4.96	0.81	0.22
Qatari Households	6.35	1.31	0.43	3.02	0.47	0.12

Source: PSA, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2012/2013

Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

Table No. (1.3) shows the increase in the number of beneficiaries of social welfare programs between 2015 and 2019 by 50%. It is noticeable that the percentage of females benefiting from social protection programs compared to males were more than doubled during the same period. The beneficiaries include categories of women and men who are widows, divorced women, the elderly, people with disabilities, the incapable of work, needy families, orphans and other vulnerable segments of society.

Table No. (1.3) Number of beneficiaries of Social security by gender 2015-2019

Sex	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Males	4,328	4,835	5,556	6,651	6,822
Females	10,095	10,640	12,288	14,582	14,799
Total	14,423	15,475	17,844	21,233	21,621

Source: Planning and Statistics Authority

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

This goal has been achieved by 100%, as all residents of Qatar have access to health, education, electricity and safe water, as well as transport, communications and banking services. Rather, the State provides these services on the basis that they are acquired rights for all residents of all groups by virtue of its direct responsibility towards society, given that these rights are included in the permanent constitution, as well as a commitment by the State to the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration of the Right to Development and other covenants and agreements. These achievements, in particular in the pillars of health and education, have strengthened the levels of human development, resulting in Qatar achieving advanced ranks in the Human Development Index. In terms of ownership rights for natural resources, Table (1.4) shows the number of Qataris of both sexes who have individual possession of land, as the number of female owners increased between 2016 and 2018 by 17%, while the number decreased for males by 3%.

Table (1.4) Proportion of adult Qatari land owners (18 years and above) by sex (2016-2019)

Sex	Age Group	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019
Males	18 years and above	Number	6160	5292	6071	5994
Females	18 years and above	Number	3313	3333	3467	3861
Total	18 years and above	Number	9473	8625	9538	9855

Source: Ministry of Justice

Source: Planning and Statistics calculations

Target 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Within the framework of action to reduce natural, economic, social and environmental disasters, legislations and laws that frame policies and measures have been enacted to address, adapt and mitigate the effects of these disasters to protect all residents of Qatar from the resulting risks. The Permanent Disaster Committee was established according to Cabinet Resolution No. (17) of 1998, as well as the Standing Committee for Rescue, Relief, Development and Humanitarian Aid. In line with Qatar's efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister's resolution No. (4) of 2020 was issued to organize the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management, and a strategic plan to address the pandemic was developed in cooperation with the World Health Organization and in partnership with countries of the world. The State of Qatar is committed to implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). The Ministry of Public Health has established the Health Emergency Department in charge of developing the necessary policies and plans to establish an integrated system for preparing and responding to health emergencies at the national level, in coordination with the competent authorities.

Challenges

Perhaps one of the State's most prominent development challenges related to addressing poverty, is the issue of the sustainability of the social protection system that protects vulnerable groups in society from the phenomenon of poverty, which is reflected by the lack of access to basic services such as housing, health, education and the enjoyment of all economic rights of decent work and resources. We refer here in particular to the three pillars that form the social protection system; namely the social welfare systems, family cohesion, and social capital. The last two pillars work to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the social protection network. As a result of the rapid pace of development in Qatar, these three pillars face some challenges. For example, there is a general feeling of declining family cohesion and social capital in Qatari society. At a time when the Qatari economy thrives and the global position of the State of Qatar rises, the challenges facing the traditional values accompanying this prosperity increase. Therefore, there is an urgent need to frame and institutionalize a social protection strategy to fulfil the multiple roles it can play in national development to include all segments of the population in development. The reform of social welfare systems in Qatar which is composed of social security, pensions, social insurance, integration and empowerment of vulnerable groups, housing and provision of job support; takes an unparalleled attention among social development priorities that will strengthen the social protection network. The COVID-19 pandemic poses challenges to many projects of The Social Protection Sector Strategy 2018-2022 due to the precautionary measures taken by the State to confront it, which led to the suspension of some of them and slowed the implementation of many sector projects. Measures have been taken to overcome these obstacles by activating special mechanisms for remote communication with beneficiaries in order to provide social care services using available internet platforms.

One of the challenges facing social protection and poverty risk prevention systems is the lack of adequate data to develop national indices to formulate sound evidence-based policies. Developmental policies directed at addressing poverty issues require the adoption of multidimensional methods of measuring poverty and data that enable analysts to classify survey samples by gender, place of residence, age, disability, immigration status, ethnicity and other characteristics.

Opportunities

The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 will provide great opportunities that will enhance the efforts of the State in achieving the goal of ending poverty. These opportunities can be summarized in the following priorities:

1. Social Protection

- Improving social security services and social assistance to enhance the social welfare system.
- Rehabilitation and empowerment of social security beneficiaries.
- Diversifying government housing services.
- Strengthening the role of the private sector in social and development responsibility.
- Establishing programs to develop family ties and maintain family cohesion.

2. Good Quality Education

- Providing all children with equitable opportunities to enroll in high-quality early education programs, regardless of their sex, age and abilities.
- Providing equal opportunities for all learners to enroll in high-quality primary and secondary education, regardless of their sex, age, and abilities.
- Providing equal opportunities for all learners to enroll in high-quality post-secondary education and training programs, regardless of their sex, age and abilities.

3. Good Health

- Development of an integrated model for providing high quality care services.
- Enhancement of health promotion and disease prevention.
- Enhancement of health protection.
- Integratiion of health into all policies.

Conclusion

The State of Qatar has adopted national policies to protect citizens from the phenomena of poverty and destitution, anchored on the frameworks of Qatar National Vision 2030, the State's permanent constitution, and international human rights covenants and agreements. The goals of these policies have been formulated as development priorities in The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, based on lessons learned from The First National Development Strategy 2011-2017 and in conformity with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in its three dimensions. These policies are characterized by the participation of all groups and segments of society in the development process. The objective is to move the citizen from the passive status of benefits reception inherent in the protection and social welfare policies to an active status by enabling all groups of society to participate in national development, which ensures that no one is left behind. The national indicators show that the State of Qatar has made remarkable progress (see Figure 1-2) in most of SDG1 targets, despite the challenges that faced Qatar's efforts to achieve them. Some of these challenges resulted from the precautionary measures taken to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to other challenges related to the sustainability of the resources of the social protection system. Those challenges are being addressed by seizing the development opportunities available in the pillars of social welfare, social development, in education, health and in productive work.





2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2.

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The State of Qatar enjoys high levels of income. Hunger, according to international definition, does not pose a challenge for Qatar, and fighting this global dilemma locally is not among the country's priorities. Nevertheless, the State of Qatar pays great attention to the targets related to providing food security and improved nutrition, promoting sustainable agriculture, doubling agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers. This is represented in the targets that ensure sustainable food production systems, and the implementation of robust agricultural practices that lead to increasing productivity and yields and preserving the genetic diversity of seeds and cultivated plants as well as investment, including through international cooperation. The importance of Goal 2 is reflected in the degree of attention that Qatar gives to development policies that aim to achieve food security and sustainable agriculture within an integrated strategy for managing natural resources in the country. Therefore, achieving food security is considered one of the strategic priorities of the State of Qatar. Qatar has already started to develop an advanced agricultural, livestock and fish production system that will enhance self-sufficiency and food security for the people of Qatar by investing in food production locally and internationally, ensuring a sustainable food production systems and increased productivity. The goals of the natural resource management sector related to food security in The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 are in line with the targets of SDG 2, which aim to achieve optimal utilization of natural resources, including food production resources and ensure their sustainability for the people of Qatar.

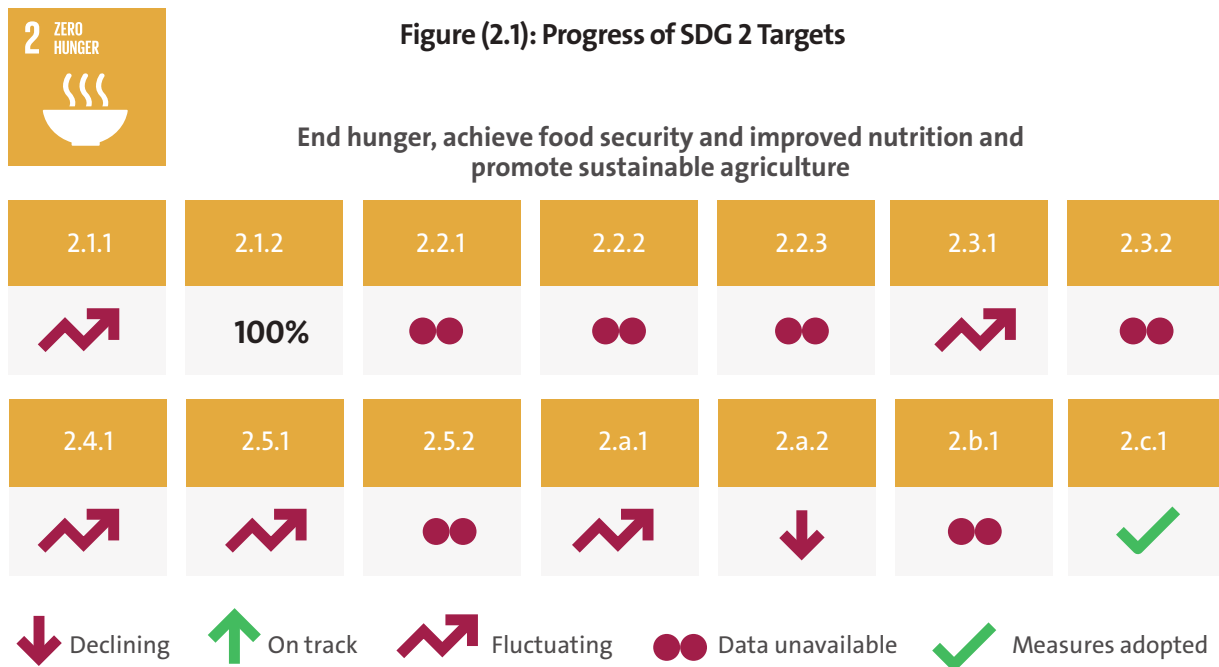
Food security and achieving self-sufficiency in some agricultural and livestock products represent the core focus of Qatar policies of developing the agricultural, livestock and fish production sectors in the country,. Among the priorities of the natural resource development sector strategy in The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 is building and developing an advanced agricultural, livestock and fish production system that promotes self-sufficiency and food security for the people of Qatar. The strategy has defined three goals to be reached by 2022: Setting up an integrated plan for agricultural services; raising the rate of self-sufficiency of fish stock to 65% through establishing advanced fish farms; and achieving a self-sufficiency rate of 30% in livestock production through sustainable management of the animal production system. Within the framework of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, the Ministry of Municipality and Environment has developed an integrated strategic plan for food security based on four pillars: 1- international trade and logistics, 2- local self-sufficiency, 3- strategic stocks, 4- local markets and supply chains. These four pillars aim to implement 13 initiatives by the end of 2023.

Table (2.1) Alignment of The Second National Development Strategy (2018-2022) goals with the targets of SDG2

Sector	Aligned goals of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022	SDG 2 Targets				
		2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
Natural resource management	By 2022, develop an integrated plan for agricultural services.					
	By 2022, raise the rate of self-sufficiency in fish stocks to 65% through the establishment of advanced fish farms.					
	By 2022, achieve self-sufficiency rate of 30% from livestock production through sustainable management of the livestock production system.					
Economic infrastructure development	By 2022, provide an infrastructure to use 70% of the treated wastewater produced in various projects.					
Environment-friendly development	By 2022, create a green belt around the city of Doha and its suburbs.					

Achieved Progress

Figure (2.1) shows that Qatar has achieved the first target in terms of food security by 100% whereas the prevalence of undernourishment indicator (2.1.1) shows a pattern of fluctuation. The levels of undernourishment in Qatar are, however, much lower compared to the global average (8.9%) in 2018. The same applies to the indicators of the third and fourth targets related to agricultural production due to the fluctuations in crop productivity and cultivated areas.



100% Target Achieved

As for the genetic diversity target (2.5), the detailed data of the indicator in table (2.5), despite its periodic fluctuation, demonstrate that significant efforts were made to conserve genetic livestock,

plant and herbal resources. The same applies to the investment indicators in tables (2.6) and (2.7), which show fluctuating levels of expenditure on agriculture. However, the detailed data indicate an increase in government expenditure as well as private investments in agricultural production in recent years. As for the indicator of development aid flows to the agricultural sector in developing countries, the flows have decreased according to the latest available data in 2017. With regard to, target(2.c) which calls for adoption of measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets, food reserves and prices, Qatar has put in place appropriate policies and mechanisms of legislation and specialized agencies for this purpose as shown in Box (2.1).

Target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

All residents of Qatar, in particular the poor and vulnerable groups of society, get enough food. There is also a noticeable improvement in the gender undernourishment index since 2017, with a remarkable improvement among females, depicted by the percentage decrease of 32% in 2019 compared to 2017. Table (2.2) shows that the rate of undernourishment among males decreased by 21%. In 2020, the State of Qatar was ranked third in the Arab world and 37th globally in the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) issued by the British Economist magazine², noting that Qatar's ranking has dropped significantly from its position in 2019. The GFSI considers issues of food affordability, availability, quality and safety, natural resources and resilience across a group of 113 countries. There is no doubt that the risks associated with the "natural resources and resilience" component of the GFSI have negatively affected Qatar's ranking despite the advanced position it achieved in 2020.

Table (2.2) Prevalence of undernourishment by gender (2016-2019)

Sex	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Males	Rate	3.77	5.36	3.88	4.22	0
Females	Rate	2.71	4.44	3.13	2.98	0
Total	Rate	3.24	4.87	3.5	3.59	0
Gender Parity Index		0.72	0.83	0.81	0.71	1

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations

Target 2-2: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

The wasting index is related to severe malnutrition, and we can shed light on this aspect of Target 2.2 through the available data using an index on the proportion of male and female children under 5 years of age who suffer from wasting. Table (2.3) shows that there is a gender disparity, as the percentage of wasted males in this age group reached 3.1% compared to 2.5 for females according to the latest available data. In general, children under 5 years of age who suffer from wasting in Qatar were close to 2.8%, which is less than half the global average in 2017 of 7.5%. Based on this data, Qatar has been able to reduce the prevalence of wasting to less than 5% and aims to reduce it to less than 3% by 2030.

(2) Global Food Security Index Exploring challenges & developing solutions© 2021 The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited.

Table (2-3) Proportion of children under 5 years of age suffering from wasting (weight for height <-2 standard deviation from the median) by gender, 2016

Sex	Age Group	Unit	2016	Goal by 2025 - 2030
Males	Under 5 years	%	3.1	0.0
Females	Under 5 years	%	2.5	0.0
Total	Under 5 years	%	2.8	0.0
Gender Parity Index			0.81	1.00

Source: Ministry of Public Health.

Target 2-3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

Agricultural lands constitute about 6% of total area of the State of Qatar. Therefore, the agricultural sector is characterized by its limited resources of agricultural land and water, as well as other difficult climatic and environmental challenges. The contribution of the agricultural sector to the GDP is 0.2%, and it employs 1.5% of the workforce. The agricultural sector also plays a very modest role in the national economy. The local production of crops covers approximately 10% of the national demand for foodstuffs and animal feed. Despite the challenges facing agricultural and livestock production in Qatar due to the natural factors represented by the limited area of arable land and the scarcity and viability of irrigation water; nonetheless, this sector has recently become of paramount importance in the development policies of the country evidenced by allocation of increased financial, natural and human resources, infrastructure, scientific research and development.

Table (2.4) below shows that the sector's productivity of green fodder, fruits and dates during the years 2016-2019 remained largely stable, while the productivity in grain production increased by nearly 40%. However, vegetable productivity decreased slightly by approximately 7% in 2019 after it witnessed an acceleration in productivity until 2018.

Table (2-4) Average yield of different crops (Tons per Hectare) (2016 - 2019)

Type of Production	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030	
Green fodder	Tons per Ha	81.4	81.2	82.3	81.3	162.8	Double 2016
Grains	Tons per Ha	4.7	5	8.6	6.6	9.4	Double 2016
Vegetables	Tons per Ha	25	25.7	26.9	23.3	50	Double 2016
Fruits and palms	Tons per Ha	11.2	11.3	11.7	11.5	22.4	Double 2016

Source: Ministry of Municipality and Environment.



Target 2-4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Table (2.5) below shows the percentage of agricultural area allocated to productive and sustainable agriculture. The agricultural area allocated to sustainable production increased between 2016 and 2019 by nearly 2%, and the area allocated to productive and sustainable agriculture increased by the same percentage. The table shows that the areas utilized for productive and sustainable agriculture are equivalent to nearly half of the allocated area. This indicates that there are good opportunities for sustainable agricultural expansion in the country.

Table (2-5) Percentage of agricultural area allocated for productive and sustainable agriculture (2016-2019)

Description	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	Ha	29,926.6	29,992.3	30,207.0	30,433.5	Increase
Percentage of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	%	50.4	52.6	54.0	52.4	Increase

Source: Ministry of Municipality and Environment

Target 2-5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

The conservation and preservation of plant genetic resources and the protection of biodiversity are receiving great attention in the State of Qatar. In this regard, the State of Qatar joined the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2008 and ratified the International Convention on Biological Diversity in 1996. It has also issued many legislations and laws aimed at protecting the environment and preserving biological diversity and plant genetic resources. The first national strategy for biodiversity was developed in 2004, and was updated within the framework of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 to contribute to achieving a balance between the pillars of sustainable development in the country, and to alleviate the increased pressures on components of biological diversity, including biological systems, animals, plants and fungi. The Ministry of Municipality and Environment will implement several projects within The Biodiversity Strategy 2018-2022, including the establishment and operation of a national database for biodiversity and a project to inventory and characterize animal genetic resources for food animals and agriculture.

Table (2-6) Number of plant and animal genetic resources conserved in Qatar Biobank (2016-2019)

Type of Genetic Resources	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019
Conserved plant genetic resources	Number	105	89	14	43
DNA resources	Number	143	167	24	22
Herbaceous genetic resources	Number	858	1,002	24	22
Total	Number	1,106	1,258	62	87

Source: Ministry of Municipality and Environment.

Best Practices

There are many examples of best practices that government agencies in Qatar have used to enhance food security in the country. Below are some of these best practices related to Target (2-a) that aims to increase investment in agricultural research and extension services and target (2-c) that aims to adopt measures necessary for healthy markets.

Example 1: There is a growing tendency for the government to encourage the private sector to invest in the agricultural sector. The government focuses most of its efforts on providing production inputs to farmers, including improved seeds, fertilizers, agricultural extension and scientific research. The government distributes these inputs and services to farmers free of charge. In general, given the small contribution of the agricultural sector to the GDP, Table (2.6) below indicates that government expenditure on the agricultural sector makes up only a small percentage of public expenditure. However, a noticeable change occurred in the size of expenditure on this sector in 2019, as expenditure in that year increased by 3 times compared to 2016.

Table (2-6) Agriculture Orientation of Government Expenditures (2016-2019)

Description	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Total Government Expenditures	Million QR	221,684	203,265	192,835	208,418	Increase
Value of expenditure on farms (fertilizers + pesticides + seeds)	Million QR	3	1.74	1.54	8.77	

Source: Ministry of Municipality and Environment.

The government is also encouraging the private sector to invest in the agricultural and food production sector. The total direct financing provided by Qatar Development Bank for small and medium enterprises in the food security sector amounted to QR 4.45 billion from 2017 to 2020. Table (2.7) below shows the size of direct loans for food security projects in the private sector during the period 2017-2020.

Table (2.7) Funding for small and medium food security projects

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Direct Loans (Million Qatari Riyals)	1,151	1,348	985	968	4,452

Source: Qatar Development Bank

Example 2: It is an empirical fact that the vulnerable, low-income segments of the population spend the bulk of their income on food. Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry adopts measures to ensure the proper performance of basic commodity markets and to obtain timely information on markets, including food reserves, in order to help reduce the severity of price volatility, which affects the purchasing power of low-income people from the most vulnerable segments of the population.

The primary importance of these measures lies in enhancing the purchasing power of the poor and low-income people and providing them with adequate food with stable prices. The system, as presented in Box (2.1) below has also succeeded in mitigating the risks arising from the the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impacts on the food supply chains by diversifying the sources of imported food to the country.

Box (2.1) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry established a national system for managing and controlling strategic stocks of food and consumer goods

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry undertakes the task of monitoring various information on the markets, including food reserves at the local and global levels, through the operation of a national system for managing and controlling strategic stocks of food and consumer goods according to its mandated functions. For this purpose, an electronic linking system has been established and managed to monitor and supervise strategic stocks in order to record all data related to the strategic goods movement and follow up on the levels of the quantities stored and maintain them according to safe and targeted periods of time. The electronic system plays a fundamental role in providing automatic linking systems between partners to monitor strategic stocks of food and consumer goods which includes customs, suppliers, major outlets, local manufacturers and national producers.

The system consists of three components: the legislative, electronic and logistical. On the legislative side, Decree-Law No. 24 of 2019 was issued to organize and manage strategic stocks of food and consumer goods. As for the electronic component, an integrated electronic system was established to monitor the strategic stocks, which was designed and built for the purposes of monitoring the strategic stocks through direct linkage with all concerned parties. Regarding the logistical component, it includes enhancing the storage capacity required to reach the target stocks of food and consumer goods.

The strategic inventory management and control system for food and consumer goods, in partnership with the private sector, has enabled the State of Qatar to adopt a rational and flexible policy to address and sustainably recover from the COVID-19 pandemic impact on the supply chains of food commodities, most of which come from abroad. The system has also enabled the State of Qatar to adapt and mitigate the negative effects of emergency conditions resulting from regional political crises and natural disasters and epidemics.

Challenges

The State of Qatar faces several challenges in its efforts to achieve the goal of ending hunger, specifically the efforts concerned with achieving the targets related to sustainable food production and addressing the phenomenon of malnutrition. As for the challenges of sustainable food production, there are a few structural and natural obstacles faced by the agricultural, livestock and fish production system in Qatar. In terms of structural factors, the plant and livestock production system accounts for a very small share of the workforce and the GDP, in addition to low productivity. Furthermore, the population grew increasingly since 2008 from about 1.6 million to nearly 2.7 million people in 2020 with an average annual growth rate of 6.1% due to the rapid economic growth and the need for manpower to implement mega development projects in the infrastructure sector. This population growth has resulted in a steady increase in urban expansion. Consequently, these factors have led to a high demand for food that can only be met through external sources due to the limited local production of plant, livestock and fish production, which covers only 10% of local consumption. The Food Security Strategy 2018-2023 aims to reach a self-sufficiency ratio of 70% by 2023 and 100% by 2030.

The natural resource challenges are posed by the scarcity of irrigation water and arable land, which amounts to 65 thousand hectares, equivalent to 5.6% of total area of the State. The arid climate, the high temperatures and the increasing salinity and scarcity of groundwater pose major challenges to the food production system. The planned expansion of local food production will put pressures on the limited natural resources through overfishing and depleting the groundwater, unless unconventional practices are followed in food production, such as hydroponics, greenhouse construction, and the use of advanced technologies in agriculture, livestock and fish production.

Malnutrition is the second component of the challenges facing Qatar in its endeavour to achieve the goal of ending hunger by 2030. The proportion of children under 5 years of age who are obese, and overweight is 8.1% for females and 8.6% for males. On the other hand, Qatar faces challenges related to food safety, especially since 90% of the food in Qatar is imported. Qatar witnesses annually the spread of imported foodborne diseases accompanied by a number of germs that cause diseases. With rapid population growth, the State's need to increase food imports is in parallel with the need for continuous management and control of the potential risk of disease outbreaks from food.

Opportunities

The Food Security Strategy 2018-2023 prepared within the framework of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 and implemented by the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, will provide good opportunities to achieve food security for the people of Qatar. These opportunities can be summed as follows:

- Development of fish farming techniques and services;
- Optimum utilization of fisheries;
- Development of marine fishing services;
- Increasing efficiency and sustainability of agricultural, livestock and fish production;
- Improving agricultural, livestock and fish markets;
- Conservation of natural resources;
- Conducting applied research on farms to find safe alternatives to the use of pesticides, including plant extracts and induced resistance, and approving the necessary budget for applied research;
- Introducing modern agricultural technologies in the field of agriculture and livestock, and approving the necessary budget for these technologies

Upon the implementation of The Food Security Strategy 2018-2023, the State of Qatar will be able to realize its aspirations of:

- Ensuring that the necessary food supplies are in place for at least 6 months in the event of severe crises;
- Achieving a high level of self-sufficiency through local production of perishable products in the national food basket (such as vegetables, poultry and dairy products);
- Securing a high degree of readiness to deal with regular trade disruptions and increased cooperation between all stakeholders to reduce the likelihood of essential food stocks running out in the short term;
- Increasing the quality of food provided to the population of Qatar and reducing food waste (less than 30%) by improving the food approval mechanism and standards;
- Improving the productivity of local farms by providing strong support to farmers, which would generate better returns while reducing dependence on government support;
- Sustaining water use and reducing the net depletion of groundwater, bringing its value to zero.

Conclusion

The State of Qatar has made remarkable progress in implementing SDG 2 in terms of the targets related to achieving food security and ending hunger (See Figure 2-1). Qatar has made great strides in achieving food security and providing adequate food for the entire population thanks to high income levels and its policies of open foreign trade with the rest of the world. The State is currently implementing bold development policies to achieve high levels of self-sufficiency in food production through The Food Security Strategy 2018-2023, within the framework of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022. However, Qatar faces a number of challenges in agricultural production due to its desert climate which is characterized by aridity and extreme heat, in addition to the scarcity of natural resources of water and arable land. Qatar has been able to overcome these challenges by exploiting available opportunities in the use of modern technologies in plant and livestock production and by encouraging scientific research and private sector investments in the agricultural sector. The political, land and air blockade imposed on the State of Qatar since June 2017 and up to the beginning of 2021 by a number of regional countries has prompted the government to encourage the private sector to invest in the food production sector and has provided farmers agricultural inputs financing and marketing services.





3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3.

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

SDG 3 aims to ensure the provision of health and well-being for all at all ages by improving reproductive and maternal and child health, ending major communicable diseases, reducing non-communicable and environmental diseases, achieving health coverage for all, and ensuring universal access to safe, effective and affordable medicines and vaccines.

1. During the past five years, health care policies in Qatar have witnessed tangible developments, aiming to establish an integrated health care system that provides its services at the highest levels of quality through public and private health institutions. Work to build this system includes the development of a number of health strategies, namely the National Primary Health Care Strategy 2013-2018 that aims to build a comprehensive and integrated global health care service that focuses on the individual and works in partnership with individuals, families and communities to advance their health and wellness, and the Continuous Care Strategy 2015. A series of practical steps have been identified to establish an effective and efficient continuous care system with a focus on the importance of treating patients at the appropriate level of care and appropriate care environment. There is also the National Mental Health Strategy 2013-2018 that clarified the vision of establishing an integrated mental health system supported by the Mental Health Law that was approved and is currently being implemented. Hospital services have been organized to include the development of clinical standards that define four levels of complexity of care for each hospital service. The National Diabetes Control Strategy was also developed 2016-2022 to redesign the model of diabetes care and prevention, including health promotion to ensure counseling on lifestyle and access to education and counseling services for diabetics and those at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. A concept and model for providing emergency and urgent care services has been developed in the health system, including standards for those services. The National Cancer Control Strategy (2011-2016) and the National Cancer Framework (2017-2022) have both been reviewed to set a framework for national-level goals related to high-quality services for health education, early detection and treatment of cancer. A road map for the National Oral and Dental Health Strategy has also been developed, which includes a national oral and dental health survey, recommendations on improving oral and dental health in Qatar, and a scientific study on water fluoridation. Finally, The Community Pharmacy Strategy (2011-2016) was developed to enhance the utilization of medicines through an integrated network of pharmacies.

2. Health service performance agreements have been implemented: These agreements were established to monitor health care institutions' quality-related results. A working group was formed to work on the national guidelines for clinical practice and clinical care pathways: 30 clinical guidelines and related clinical pathways were established. The National E-Health and Health Data Management Strategy was developed to define standards, data sets, policies and requirements related to e-health, as well as the National Strategy for Integration and Standardization of Laboratory Services (2013-2018).
3. Several programs and projects have been set up to nationally focus on health promotion and prevention and early detection of diseases, as well as strengthening the National Public Health Administration. Among these programs: the National Public Health Strategy (2017-2022), the National Action Plan for Nutrition and Physical Activity (2017-2022), the framework and operating model for the National Screening Program (draft), the Tobacco Control Action Plan, and the National Health Emergency Preparedness Plan.
4. The National Health Care Workforce Plan 2014-2022 includes seven strategic axes with measures in the short, medium and long terms, such as planning the capabilities and capacities of the workforce, improving the mix of skills, recruitment and retention.
5. Qatar Council for Healthcare Professions was established and the five-year strategic plan for the Council 2017-2022 was developed with a focus on sustainable growth, excellence and quality, partnership and participation, and ensuring high-performance organization. Licensing protocols and accreditation standards for health facilities were developed, in addition to implementing a national system for medical prescriptions.
6. New hospitals and health care centers were opened, basic clinical services were expanded and transformed, and a master plan for health care facilities 2013-2033 with an action plan for the first five years were drawn up. A performance-based budgeting system was also developed and is being implemented in phases. The role of the private sector in providing health care remains an important area of opportunity and will constitute a major consideration in the health system in the future.
7. The National Research Ethics Committee was formed, a sustainable form for registration with the Institutional Review Board and to submit research ethical review was applied, as well as a national policy for genetic medicine. These successes and achievements have greatly benefited and contributed to the Qatari health system, given that progress in implementing these important projects during the strategy period will continue.
8. The "TASMU" strategy has been developed, through which several projects in the transport sector that support the achievement of SDG 3 have been identified and described. The working group has initiated work on defining the scope of the immediate crowd management and transport system project - one of the projects supporting SDG 3. The strategy and selected projects will be reviewed to support the achievement of the goal.
9. It should be noted that these policies are in line with the goals of QNV 2030 and the goals of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, as in the latter there are a number of projects that serve this goal, namely: (a) Establishment of the Research, Development and Innovation Sector at Qatar Foundation as an entity concerned with monitoring all research activities in the fields of health, engineering, environment, energy and electronic information, in addition to preparing policies that would achieve coherence and joint effectiveness for research in order to achieve outputs that help the State achieve its priority; (b) Establishment of an information and management system for occupational health and injury data to monitor and evaluate the health status of all workers and the performance of occupational health services; (c) Establishment and implementation of a national policy for workforce safety and protection of workers in health care delivery environments; (d) Establishment of an effective

workplace wellness programs to promote physical and psychological health and reduce occupational and workplace hazards.

10. In order to confront the pandemic and respond to its repercussions on the health care sector, the State of Qatar developed a national action plan in March 2020, aimed at reducing the impact of the disease, mitigating its effects on people and enabling society to continue and work as normal as possible during and after the epidemic, in addition to reducing and mitigating the economic impact of the pandemic. This action plan has been embodied among other interventions in a set of general precautionary measures and the provision of a package of financial incentives: The precautionary measures include (a) Suspending all incoming trips to Doha and applying hotel or home quarantine decision to all citizens coming to Qatar from any destination in the world upon their arrival for a period of 14 days, as well as temporarily suspending the public transport services, including the Doha Metro service and the public transport service. Part of the industrial area was also closed for the safety of residents while taking continuous medical examination procedures, to protect other areas from further spread of the virus, while ensuring that the daily needs of workers residing there continue to be met and their salaries are paid on same dates; (b) Closing retail stores and bank branches in commercial complexes and shopping centers (except for foodstuff stores and pharmacies), closing shops, all men's and women's salons and health clubs in hotels; (c) Imposing precautionary measures to prevent all forms of gathering (the Corniche, parks and public beaches and social gatherings); (d) Reducing the number of employees in government agencies and workers in the private sector's workplaces to 20% of total number of employees and workers, to ensure the smooth running of public facilities and the completion of necessary activities; (e) Helping the private sector (worth of QR 75 billion, or about 10% of GDP) to sustain businesses and jobs during the crisis, in a way that guarantees workers' rights to get their wages.

These procedures were characterized by being rigorous and flexible in light of a continuous evaluation process of the field situation carried out by the competent authorities. Even with the continued vaccination of the population and the expansion of the covered age groups, the number of infections increased daily and the work system has been revised to reduce the attendance rate to 50% now. Precautionary measures have been imposed to prevent all forms of gathering (Corniche, parks and public beaches and social gatherings).

Achieved progress

Target (3-1): By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

3-1-1 Maternal mortality ratio

The maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births remained low at (3.52) deaths in 2019 (one case). The State of Qatar has achieved this target specified in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 with (70) maternal deaths per 100,000 live births achieved long before the deadline. It no longer poses any challenge to Qatar, as the competent health authorities seek to achieve a safe life for mothers before, during and after childbirth, by providing appropriate services in the field of reproductive and sexual health.

Table (3.1) Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births by mother's nationality (2016-2019)

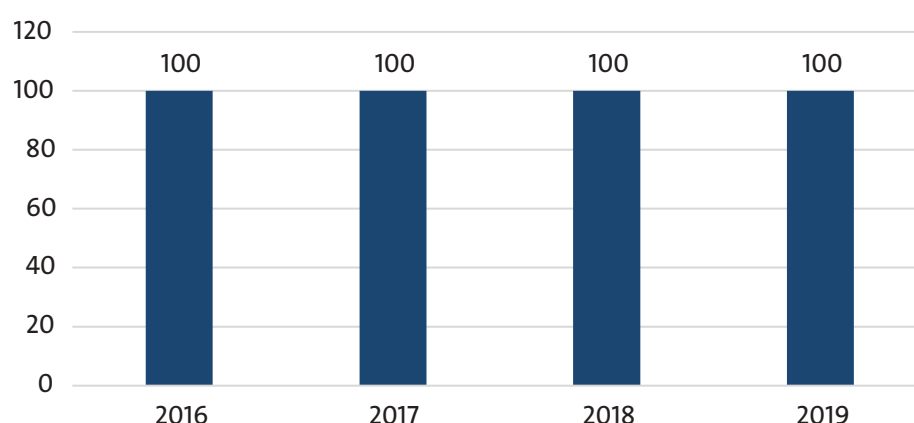
Nationality	2016	2017	2018	2019
Qataris	0	0	0	
Non-Qataris	0	0	4.93	
Total	0	0	3.56	3.52

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin.

3-1-2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

During the period (2016-2019), all births in the State of Qatar were inside hospitals at a rate of (100%) attended by skilled health personnel. This reflects the comprehensive coverage in the provision of health care services to mothers during childbirth.

Figure (3.1) Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in Qatar (2016-2019)



Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin.

Target 3-2: By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

3-2-1 Under-5 mortality rate

The child mortality rate index is an important indicator to know the efficiency of the State's health system, as it is related at the same time to prevention and hospitalization. The mortality rate for children under 5 years of age per 1,000 live births has decreased from (7.1) deaths in 2016 to (5.9) deaths in 2019. However, it is still better than that in Europe and Central Asia (9 deaths) and similar to North America (7 deaths), but less than that in the European Union (4 deaths). Thus, the State of Qatar has achieved this target set in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 as (25) deaths per 1,000 live births.

Table (3.2) Under-five mortality rate (number of deaths per 1,000 live births) by nationality (2016 -2019)

Nationality	2016	2017	2018	2019
Qataris	7.2	6.8	8.1	4.8
Non-Qataris	7	6.6	7.4	6.3
Total	7.1	6.7	7.6	5.9

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin.

It is a fact that the State of Qatar has approached the level prevailing in developed countries thanks to its effective health policies which contributed to providing various basic needs for children by expanding the construction of health care centers for children and carrying out vaccination campaigns against epidemic and infectious diseases, in addition to organizing health awareness campaigns.

3-2-2 Neonatal mortality rate (0-28 days)

The rate of neonatal deaths in the State of Qatar per 1,000 live births increased from (2.8) deaths in 2016 to (3.41) deaths in 2019, which means that it increased by 35.7% during the period (2016-2019). This rate exceeded its counterpart in the European Union (3 deaths), but less than that in the United States, (6) deaths in 2017), and in the United Kingdom (4 deaths). Thus, the State of Qatar has achieved this target set in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 as (12) deaths per 1,000 live births.

Table (3.3) Neonatal mortality rate (No. of deaths per 1,000 live births) by nationality (2016-2018)

Nationality	2016	2017	2018	2019
Qataris	3.9	4.3	4.2	2.8
Non-Qataris	2.8	3.7	3.6	3.63
Total	2.8	3.8	3.8	3.41

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

Needless to say, the high neonatal mortality rate (newborns 0-28 days) in Qatar does not reflect the State's relentless efforts in the field of health policies, especially women's reproductive health, in addition to adopting programs to care for the health of the newborn, and setting up an integrated national model for care and service provision in pediatrics, with a focus on continuous care.

Target 3-3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

3-3-1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations

The number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population was close to zero throughout the period (2016-2019), with the rate reaching (0.02) per 1,000 population. This means that AIDS does not pose a health issue at the State level according to the documents and reports of the competent authorities in the Ministry Public health. This is due to several reasons, mainly the preventive measures taken by the competent authorities, including the precautionary policy adopted by the Medical Commission to ensure that the disease does not enter the country from abroad.

Table (3.4) Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (2016-2019)

Characteristics	Statement	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sex	Male	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
	Female	0	0	0.01	0.01
Nationality	Qataris	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.05
	Non-Qataris	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
Age Groups	Less than 15 years	0	0	(-)	0
	15-24 years	0.01	0	0.01	0.01
	25 years and above	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
Total		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

Despite the diversity of the ethnic and cultural composition of the population in the State of Qatar, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is relatively low. This is due to the implementation the National AIDS Program, which adopts an early detection and treatment strategy. The program aims to raise awareness about AIDS and provide the best possible health care for patients with this disease in the State of Qatar, in addition to improving the collection of epidemiological data and monitoring health indicators, including maternal deaths and major diseases.

3-3-2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

The tuberculosis incidence in Qatar increased from (19.3) cases in 2016 to (29.3) cases per 100,000 population in 2019, an increase of (51.8%).

Table (3.5) Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population (2016-2019)

2016	2017	2018	2019
19.3	23.3	28.7	29.3

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

It should be noted that the World Health Organization prepared a strategy to eradicate tuberculosis which was approved by the World Health Assembly in May 2014 to be a blueprint for all countries to eradicate the tuberculosis epidemic by reducing the resulting deaths and the infection rates and eliminating the disastrous costs resulting therefrom. The strategy defines the global targets related to the impact of reducing the death rate from tuberculosis by (90%), reducing the number of new cases by (80%) between 2015 and 2030, and ensuring that no family will bear the catastrophic costs of tuberculosis.

The policy of adopting the Medical Commission's tests for all applicants for residency has contributed to early diagnosis and successful treatment of discovered cases, thanks to the efforts of the Ministry of Public Health along with Hamad Medical Corporation and the Primary Health Care Corporation, as well as the private sector. All contacts of tuberculosis patients are screened and those found to be infected are given the necessary treatment.

3-3-3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

Statistics indicate that the malaria incidence per 1,000 population stabilized at (0.2) during the period 2016-2019. This came as a result of the efforts made by the health institutions in Qatar to raise awareness of malaria and the importance of taking the necessary preventive measures to protect against it, especially with many residents preparing to travel and spend their summer holidays outside Qatar.

Table (3.6) Malaria incidence per 1,000 population (2016-2019)

2016	2017	2018	2019
0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

It is worth noting that malaria is not endemic in Qatar, but hundreds of cases are diagnosed every year as a result of some people traveling to countries where this disease is endemic.

3-3-4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population

The hepatitis B incidence in Qatar increased from (8.4) cases to (29.2) cases per 100,000 population between 2016 and 2019. It should be noted that this indicator recorded a slight decrease between the years 2018 and 2019 of (0.4) point. The success of the State of Qatar in combating hepatitis B is one of the fruits of the continuous cooperation between the government sector, institutions and charities in the field of public health, which has become a global example, as the Qatar implements a solid strategy to control and eradicate this disease based on four basic pillars. These pillars are implemented through joint efforts of the Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation, Primary Health Care Corporation, Qatar Red Crescent, health services at the Ministry of Interior and many other bodies.

Table (3.7) Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population (2016-2019)

2016	2017	2018	2019
8.4	20.3	29.6	29.2

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

3-3-5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases

Neglected tropical diseases mean a group of preventable and treatable diseases that affect the poorest and most vulnerable people and those who live in hard-to-reach areas, and they spread in tropical areas. As Qatar pursues a comprehensive health policy based on providing comprehensive treatment for all diseases, including diseases in tropical countries, the number of people receiving treatment for tropical diseases was very small and did not exceed (0.0014) of total population in 2019, noting that most of these cases were expatriate workers from tropical regions, especially from Africa.

Table (3.8) Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases (2016-2019)

2016	2017	2018	2019
30	78	40	128

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

Target 3-4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

3-4-1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

The mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease among Qataris increased for the age group (30-70) years from (8.4) in 2016 to (12.3) in 2018, an increase of (46.4%). The percentage for females increased from (5.7%) in 2016 to (8.8%) in 2018, while it increased for males from (11.5%) in 2016 to (16.2%) in 2018, an increase of (40.8%).

Table (3.9) Qatari mortality rate, due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease (the risk of death is converted to% between the ages of 30 and 70 years) by sex (2016-2018)

	2016	2017	2018
Males	11.5	15	16.2
Females	5.7	7.1	8.8
Total	8.4	10.9	12.3
	0.5	0.47	0.54

Ministry of Public Health, and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

3-4-2 Suicide mortality rate

Suicide is the act that involves intentionally causing a person to kill himself. Suicide is often committed due to despair, which is mostly attributed to a psychological disorder such as depression, manic depression, schizophrenia, alcoholism or drug abuse. It is noted that the suicide mortality rate in Qatar is very low, as it was estimated at (2.1) cases in 2019. It should be noted that the State of Qatar, as a member of the World Health Organization, has committed itself under the WHO Mental Health Action Plan (2013-2020) to achieve by 2020 the global goal of reducing the suicide rate in countries by 10%, which has already been achieved.

Table (3.10) Suicide mortality rate per 100,000 population by sex (2016-2019)

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Males	1.6	1.6	2.3	2.6
Females	0.3	0.4	0.1	1
Total	1.3	1.3	1.8	2.1

Ministry of Public Health, and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

Target 3-5: Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

3-5-1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders

The State of Qatar provides all drug services, psychological support, rehabilitation and aftercare services for all people who suffer from substance use disorders. During the whole period (2016-2019), the coverage of treatment interventions reached 100%.

Table (3.11) Coverage of treatment interventions for substance use disorders (2016-2019)

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

It should be noted that the Ministry of Public Health is coordinating with the National Committee for Drug Control regarding its plans and programs in the field of drug control, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug users.

Target 3-6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

3-6-1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries

Table (3.12): Death Rate

Nationality	2016	2017	2018
Qataris	19.8	19.6	17.8
Non-Qataris	7.1	6.3	5.7
Total	8.5	7.7	7.1

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations. Births and Deaths Bulletin

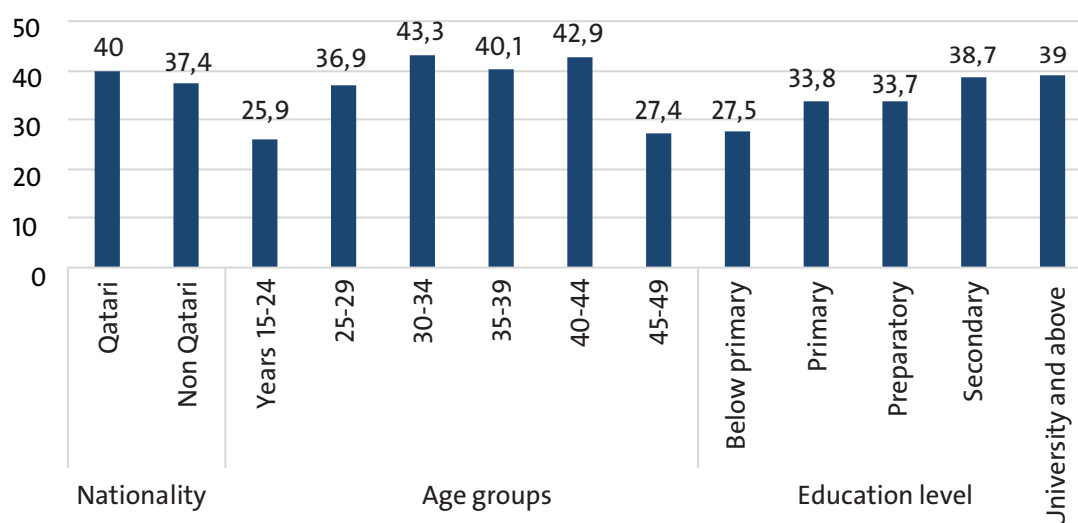
The indicator of death rate due to road traffic injuries witnessed a remarkable decline during the period (2016-2018), decreasing by an estimated (16.4%). While the death rate per 100,000 population was (8.5) deaths in 2016, it became (7.1) deaths in 2018. It is noticed that death rate due to road traffic injuries in Qatar is less than the global average of (17.4) deaths, thanks to the development of ambulance system in Qatar, the increase in the number of speed control devices “radar” and the traffic campaigns that emphasize the importance of traffic safety and respect for the law and vehicle traffic instructions, in addition to raised awareness and increased attention to traffic rules and the rise of the level of driving culture.

Target 3-7: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3-7-1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

The proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied amounted to (38%), which is lower than the global average of (25%), and reaches (40%) for Qataris and (37.4%) for non Qataris.

Figure (3.2): Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied (2012)



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, PSA, 2012

When looking at the proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied according to age groups, we note that the highest proportion was in the age group (30-34 years), while the lowest was in the age group (15-24 years), which is probably due to the low cultural level of married women in this age group, who in the early years of marriage do not favor family planning with contraceptives, and the spacing between pregnancies. The proportion of women of reproductive level (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied according to educational status varies between (33.7%) for preparatory certificate holders, (38.7%) for secondary certificate holders, (39.0) for holders of a university degree or higher, and close to (33.8%) for elementary certificate holders, while it is (27.5%) for those whose educational level is less than the primary certificate.

3-7-2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group

The total birth rate among Qatari and non-Qatari adolescent girls in the age group (10-14 years) per 1,000 women in Qatar is zero, while the rate among adolescent girls in the age group (15-19 years) witnessed a decrease from about (10.3) births in 2016 to (8.5) births per 1,000 women in 2018. This rate is lower than that in the countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the United States of America, where it reached (22) and (19.0) births per 1,000 women, respectively in 2018. The rate decreased among Qatari adolescents to (3.4) births per 1,000 Qatari women, while it increased for non-Qatari women to (11.8) births per 1,000 non-Qatari women in 2018.

Table (3.13) Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women by nationality and age group

Nationality	Age Groups	2016	2017	2018
Qataris	10-14 years	0	0	0
	15-19 years	5.7	4.9	3.4
Non-Qataris	10-14 years	0	0	0
	15-19 years	13.4	13	11.8
Total	10-14 years	0	0	0
	15-19 years	10.3	9.8	8.5

Source: PSA, Births and Deaths Bulletin.

The low birth rate among Qatari adolescents (aged 15-19 years) can be explained by their preference to complete their education at the expense of early marriage, unlike non-Qatari adolescents.

It is worth mentioning that pregnancy and childbirth complications are the main cause of death among adolescents aged 15-19. However, girls who marry later and delay pregnancy beyond their adolescence have a greater chance to enjoy better health, obtain a higher education and build a better life for themselves and their families.

Target 3-8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the population)

The essential health services index reached full coverage (100%) for all the population covered by primary health care throughout the period (2016-2019), which contributed to the eradication of many diseases such as polio, neonatal tetanus, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough ... etc, where almost all of them have disappeared in Qatar.

Table (3.14) Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the population) (2016-2019)

Essential Health Services	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Ministry of Public Health.

Needless to say, the achievement of full coverage in terms of providing essential health services to all population of Qatar is due to the expansion in establishing primary health care centers in various regions of the State, in addition to construction of specialized hospitals that provide their services or activities to all citizens and residents.

3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income

The value of monthly per capita health expenditure is about QR 98.5, representing (2.03%) of total monthly per capita expenditure and (1.30%) of total monthly per capita income. The expenditure value increases with the increase of the per capita income, thus, the monthly expenditure on health for those who earn monthly income of QR 50,000 and above reaches QR 303, representing (3.28%) of monthly per capita income and (5.1%) of monthly per capita expenditure.

Table (3.15) Average and proportion of monthly per capita expenditure in QR on health care services (2012/2013)

	Health care Expenditure Categories	Percentage of monthly per capita expenditure on health care of total monthly per capita expenditure	Percentage of monthly per capita expenditure on health care of total monthly per capita income	Average monthly per capita expenditure on health care
1	Less than 2,500	0.05	0.04	2.05
2	5,000 -	0.39	0.23	17.88
3	7,500 -	0.56	0.37	27.51
4	10,000 -	0.86	0.52	42.61
5	12,500 -	1.10	0.69	57.94
6	15,000 -	1.27	0.86	59.30
7	17,500 -	1.51	0.96	72.57
8	20,000 -	1.76	1.11	92.11
9	22,500 -	2.13	1.12	127.13
10	25,000 -	2.22	1.40	99.89
11	27,500 -	2.41	1.70	133.01
12	30,000 -	2.11	1.28	127.24
13	32,000 -	2.20	1.27	99.50
14	35,000 -	2.50	1.57	131.00
15	40,000 -	3.40	1.95	185.53
16	50,000 -	3.78	2.17	181.25
17	50,000 and above	5.10	3.28	303.97
	Total	2.03	1.30	98.49

* Note: In 2012/2013, the average monthly per capita income was QR 7,583.2 and the average monthly per capita expenditure was QR 98.5.

Source: PSA, Household Expenditure and Income Survey 2012/2013.

The table above shows that the per capita expenditure on health care services is very low, because the entire population is covered by free or semi-free health care services. It is also noted that the monthly per capita expenditure on health care increased from about QR 67.5 in 2006/2007 to

about QR 98.5 in 2012/2013, an increase of about (46%). The percentage of per capita expenditure on health care as a share of total monthly expenditure increased from (1.9%) in 2006/2007 to (2%) in 2012/2013, while the percentage of monthly expenditure on health care as a share of total per capita income decreased from (1.8%) in 2006/2007 to (1.3%) in 2012/2013, due to the increase in the monthly per capita income at a higher rate than what is allocated from the income to health care services.

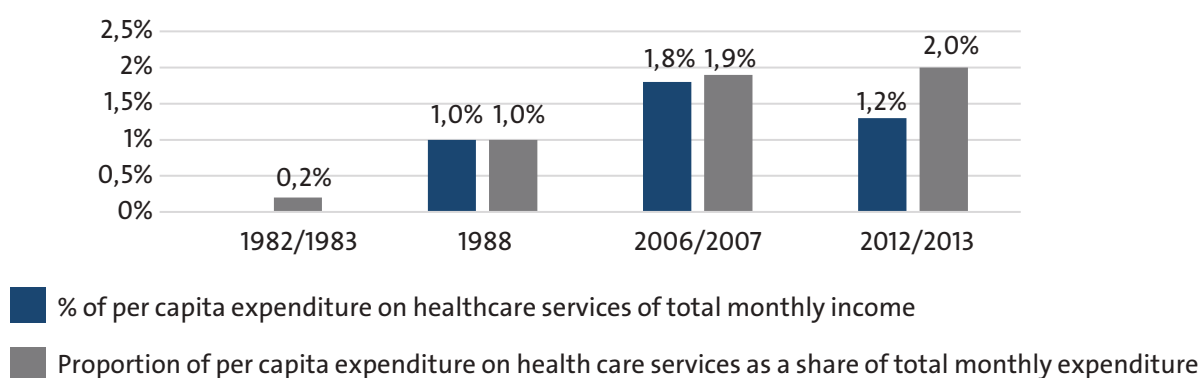
Table (3.16) Proportion of per capita expenditure on health care services as a share of total household expenditure or income (1982-2013)

Years	Per capita expenditure on services and healthcare per capita (per month in Qatari riyals)	Total per capita income (per month in Qatari riyals)	Total per capita expenditure (per month in Qatari riyals)	% of per capita expenditure on healthcare services of total monthly income	% of per capita expenditure on healthcare services of total monthly expenditure
1982/1983	2.0	...	1260.56	0.2%
1988	16.0	1587	1672	1.0%	1.0%
2006/2007	67.5	3845.4	3591.16	1.8%	1.9%
2012/2013	98.49	7583.17	4846.78	1.3%	2.0%

...: N/A.

Source: Household Expenditure and Income Survey and PSA calculations.

Figure (3.3): Proportion of per capita expenditure on health care services as a share of total monthly expenditure or income (1982-2013)



Source: Final Results of Household Expenditure & Income survey 2014 and PSA calculations.

Target 3-9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

3-9-1 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)

Given the availability of safe water and safe sanitation, as well as the availability of cleaning materials for all residents in the State of Qatar, there were no deaths attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene throughout the period (2016 -2019).

Table (3.17) Mortality rate per 100,000 population by cause of death (2016-2019)

Cause of Death	2016	2017	2018	2019
Unsafe Water	0	0	0	0
Unsafe Sanitation	0	0	0	0
Lack of Hygiene	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations, Births and Deaths Bulletin.

3-9-2 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning

The data on mortality rate index attributable to unintentional poisoning indicate that it tripled between 2016 and 2018, increasing from 0.15 to 0.47, with a variation in the index between Qataris and non-Qataris. This rate decreased among Qataris from 0.68 to 0.32, while it increased for non-Qataris from 0.09 to 0.49 during the period (2016-2019). Although this index fluctuated during this period, it is still lower than that in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (0.5) and in the Middle East and North Africa (0.8) ³.

Table (3.18) Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning per 100,000 population (2016-2018)

Nationality	2016	2017	2018
Qataris	0.68	0.66	0.32
Non-Qataris	0.09	0.5	0.49
Total	0.15	0.51	0.47

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations, Births and Deaths Bulletin.

³ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.POIS.P5>

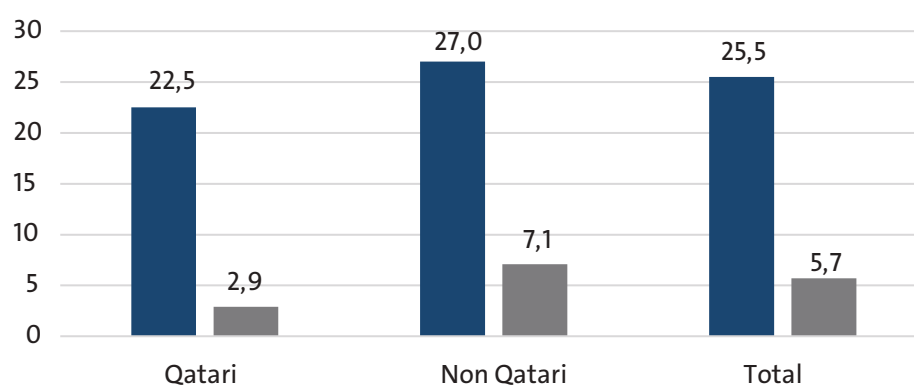


Target (3-a): Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older.

The data of the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey conducted in 2012 indicate that the prevalence of smoking among persons aged 15 years and older reached (17.1%), and the prevalence among non-Qataris was higher than that of Qataris, both males and females, and the rate was higher among the age group (25-44 years), then it decreased for older ages. The percentage also increases as the educational level decreases, reaching (32.3%) for holders of primary education, while it was around (16.7%) for holders of a university degree or above. It should be noted that the prevalence of smoking in Qatar among males aged 15 years and older is less than the global average of (35%), the average in the European Union (30%) and in the countries of North America(19%)..

Figure (3.4) Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older by nationality and sex (2012)



Source: Multi Indicator Cluster Survey, PSA, 2012

The State of Qatar seeks, through education on the harms of smoking via various media and religious platforms, to reduce its prevalence. Qatar has expanded smoking cessation clinics to be included in health centers to enhance efforts and provide greater possibility for those wishing to quit smoking to have access to the services provided in this regard. This comes in line within the framework of limiting the spread of smoking by (30%) by 2022, according to The Second National Development Strategy (2018-2022).

Target (3-b): Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

3-b-1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme.

All population of Qatar, citizens and residents alike, receive all essential medicines, and price of medicine is largely subsidized by the government for non-Qataris. Also, the State provides vaccines for all free of charge in public health care centers in all regions of Qatar.

Table (3.19) Proportion of population with permanent access to essential medicines and vaccines at affordable prices (2016-2019)

2016	2017	2018	2019
100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations

The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 indicates that Qatar, in the context of building an integrated model for providing high-level health care, included a special program related to ensuring the availability of necessary medicines and medical supplies, and a program to develop policies and systems to obtain the maximum value from medicines and diagnostic services. As for vaccination coverage for children during the first year of life, it was close to comprehensive coverage for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (98%) during the period (2016-2019). With regards to measles vaccination, the percentage increased from (92%) in 2016 to (98.3%) in 2019, and the vaccination coverage rate for the third pneumococcal dose also increased from 96.6% in 2016 to 98% in 2019.

Table (3.20) Vaccine coverage rate for children during the first year of life (2016-2019)

Year	Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough for children under one year of age (%) DTP3	MCV2 as per the recommended age	PCV3
2016	98.2	92	96.6
2017	97.1	93	97.7
2018	98	95	98
2019	98	98.3	98

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations

It is expected that the percentage of children immunized from infectious diseases will continue to be in full coverage in the medium and long terms in light of the State's adoption of policies and plans within The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 aimed at improving health services provided to children.

3.b.2 Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors.

The assistance provided by Qatar in support of the efforts of developing countries to achieve the SDGs increased from about QR 3.5 billion in 2015 to nearly QR 4.2 billion in 2017, an increase of of (20%). The assistance provided in the field of health and welfare also increased from QR 182 million in 2016 to QR 583 million in 2017, an increase of about (220%). The assistance provided to help developing countries, especially the least developed, to achieve SDG 3 accounted for (13.9%) of total State development assistance for 2017.

Table (3.21) Value of development assistance for SDG 3 (2016-2017)

SDG	SDG Title	Unit	2016	2017
3	Healthy life and well-being	QR	182,101,602	583,052,607
		US\$	50,027,913	160,179,288

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and PSA calculation

3-b-3 Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis.

Qatar has provided health facilities represented in hospitals and health care centers in all regions of the country, where all necessary medicines are available and distributed in an orderly manner that allows everyone to get them at a nominal cost. Thus, the percentage of availability of these facilities is 100% throughout the period (2016-2019).

Table (3.22) Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis (2016-2019)

2016	2017	2018	2019
100	100	100	100

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations.

Target (3-c): Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

3-c-1 Health worker density and distribution.

The average number of doctors per 1,000 population remained at a low level, as did not exceed (2.7) doctors, which is less than its counterpart in the United Kingdom (2.8 doctors) and in the OECD (3.5 doctors). However, it exceeded the global average (1.5 doctors). The rate is expected to increase with the increase in the number of graduates from Weill Cornell Medical College, as well as Qatar University's College of Medicine, where the first batch are expected to graduate in 2021.

Table (3.23) Health worker density and distribution per 1,000 population by occupation (2016 -2019)

Health Workers	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nurses	6.5	6.6	7.5	8.1
Pharmacists	1.1	0.8	0.9	1
Dentists	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7
Physicians	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.7
Workers in assisting health occupations	3.4	3.1	2.5	2.7

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA calculations, Annual Statistical Abstract (Chapter of Health Care Statistics).

It is noted from the above table that the number of nurses per 1,000 population did not exceed (6.5) nurses. This rate goes beyond the world average of (2.94), but is lower than that of France and the United Kingdom of (10.6) and (8.4) nurses, respectively. The rate is expected to increase in the coming years as the number of nursing graduates from the University of Calgary is increasing.

Target (3-d): Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

3-d-1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness.

The State of Qatar has the required capabilities in the field of International Health Regulations and health emergency preparedness. This was indicated in The First National Health Strategy (2011-2016), where it included the implementation of health emergency preparedness project, and a new Emergency Preparedness and Response Department was established in the Ministry of Public Health. It should be noted that MPH, within the framework of implementing Qatar's Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, is implementing the National Emergency Preparedness Plan project and promoting a comprehensive all-risk approach to response, with the support of Hamad Medical Corporation, all health care institutions and the Ministry of Interior.

Thus, the average IHR capacity and health emergency preparedness increased from 76% in 2016 to 96% in 2019.



Table (3.24) International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness by sub-indicator (2016-2019)

Sub-Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019
Average IHR capacity and health emergency preparedness	76	76	87	96

Source: Ministry of Public Health and PSA.

Challenges

The State of Qatar has made remarkable achievements in preventive care in various fields, including early detection of diseases, encouraging the public to practice healthy behaviors and improving transparency regarding patients' rights and responsibilities. Despite the efforts made and the results achieved, there are still a few challenges remain, namely:

1. The neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births increased from (2.8) deaths in 2016 to (3.41) deaths in 2019;
2. High tuberculosis prevalence per 100,000 population in Qatar during the period (2016-2019) from (19.3) cases to (29.3) cases in 2019, an increase of (51.8%).
3. High hepatitis B prevalence per 100,000 population in Qatar from (8.4) cases in 2016 to (29.2) cases 2019;

4. High mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease among Qataris between (30-70) years, from (8.4) in 2016 to (12.3) in 2018, an increase of (46.4%). The rate of females increased from (5.7%) in 2016 to (8.8%) in 2018, while for males it increased from (11.5%) in 2016 to (16.2%) in 2018, an increase of (40.8%).
5. The mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning doubled between the years 2016 and 2018, from 0.15 to 0.47, with a difference in the index between Qataris and non-Qataris. The rate decreased among Qataris during the period (2016-2019) from 0.68 to 32, while it increased among non-Qataris from 0.09 to 0.49;
6. High prevalence of smoking among persons aged 15 years and older, reaching (17.1%). The prevalence among non-Qataris was higher than that among Qataris, both males and females, and the rate increased for the age group (25-44 years), then it decreased for older ages. The percentage also increased as the educational level decreased, reaching (32.3%) for holders of primary education, while it was around (16.7%) for holders of a university degree and above.
7. The average number of doctors per 1,000 population remained low at (2.7) compared to the international level.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the State of Qatar has made remarkable achievements in preventive care in various fields, including early detection of diseases, encouraging the public to practice healthy behaviors, and improving transparency regarding patients' rights and responsibilities. Qatar has also made tangible achievements, as the Essential Health Services Index reached full coverage (100%) for all the population covered by primary health care throughout the period (2016-2019), which contributed to the eradication of many diseases such as polio, neonatal tetanus, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough ... etc, where almost all of them have disappeared in Qatar.

Mortality rates due to environmental hazards have decreased significantly. The assistance provided in the field of health and welfare increased from QR 182 million in 2016 to QR 583 million in 2017, an increase of around (220%). Also, under 5 mortality rate was reduced to less than (25) cases per 1,000 live births and neonatal mortality rate to less than (12) cases before the deadline in 2030. The State of Qatar has also achieved a significant reduction in the rate of deaths due to traffic accidents from (8.5) deaths to (7.1) cases in 2018 per 100,000 population, which is less than the global average of 17.4 deaths.

Despite the efforts made and the results achieved, there are still some challenges related to reducing the mortality rates due to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and other chronic diseases, as their rate increased among Qataris from (8.4) in 2016 to (12.3) in 2018.





8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Sustainable Development Goals urge steady economic growth, increased levels of productivity and technological innovation. In this regard, there are critical factors for achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men by 2030, namely: employment policies, developing labour market legislation, encouraging entrepreneurship and creating job opportunities, encouraging women's participation in the workforce, taking effective measures to eliminate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking, and promoting the occupational health and safety of workers.

The prosperity of the Qatari economy is not only due to the abundance of natural hydrocarbon resources, but also to the presence of an efficient administrative system, political stability, social harmony and a distinguished international relationship. These advantages have enabled the State of Qatar to benefit from its natural resources in local manufacturing and foreign trade, and to provide a high-level banking, transport, communications, education and health services, which raised the population's standard of living. The acceleration of the growth of economic activities in Qatar over the past decade has also led to an expansion in local and foreign investments, which in turn has resulted in providing job opportunities in various specialties available to all international labour markets. Qatar's international partners have played a pivotal role in the process of economic and social development, both in providing funding and expertise or in providing skilled and unskilled labour. The economic and administrative reforms have also played a significant role in improving the business environment by expanding the base of economic activities both horizontally and vertically. During the period 2015-2020, the average nominal GDP amounted to about US\$ 163.4 billion, and the average population during the same period was estimated at about 2.67 million people, of which the expatriate made up about 73% of total population and 95% of total workforce. Thus, the average per capita nominal GDP during the same period amounted to about US\$61.1 thousand.

Policies and Alignment

1. The policies of the labour market in Qatar have witnessed tangible developments during the past five years, which is noted from the Labour Law amendment and the regulatory measures related to labour market, one of the most important results of which is the replacement of the sponsorship system with a work contract that guarantees the rights of the worker, including the freedom to leave the country as well as transferring from one job to another. The new changes also include guaranteeing a minimum wage for workers and domestic workers, supported by the Wage Protection System. There has also been an important development in the field of providing greater protection for workers through implementation of occupational health and safety measures. In the same context, comes the establishment of Labour Dispute

Settlement Committees and Workers' Support and Insurance Fund. Qatar has further signed the Technical Cooperation Agreement (2018-2020) with the International Labour Organization, which stipulates: (1) Improving national complaint mechanisms for workers; (2) Providing ILO support for workers to file complaints through national mechanisms, including follow-up with the aim of ensuring prompt and fair treatment and non-retaliation; (3) Establishing Joint Workers' Committees; (4) Educating expatriate workers about their rights and responsibilities, especially with regard to submitting complaints, required documents and various other procedural issues; (5) Improving legislation and the performance of Workers' Committees; (6) Conducting a national campaign to raise awareness about rights at work and capacity building for all workers, employers and relevant government officials in Qatar.

2. It should be noted that these policies are in line with the goals of QNV 2030 and NDS-2 (2018-2022), as the latter include a number of projects that serve this goal, namely: (a) Reformulate legislation related to maternity leave, sick leave and working hours during pregnancy; (b) Establish an information and management system for occupational health and injury data to monitor and evaluate the health status of all workers and the performance of occupational health services; (c) Develop and implement a national policy for workforce safety and protection of workers in health care delivery environments; (d) Establish effective wellness programs in the workplace to enhance physical and psychological health and reduce occupational and workplace hazards.
3. Qatar was no exception in facing the pandemic and responding to its repercussions on businesses and workers. In March 2020, Qatar developed a national action plan aimed at reducing the impact of the disease, mitigating its effects on people and enabling society to continue and work as normal as possible during and after the pandemic, in addition to reducing and mitigating the economic impact of the pandemic. This action plan has been embodied among other interventions in a set of general precautionary measures and the provision of a package of financial incentives.

The precautionary measures include:

- Suspending all incoming trips to Doha and applying hotel or home quarantine decision to all citizens coming to Qatar from any destination in the world upon their arrival for a period of 14 days, as well as temporarily suspending the public transport services, including the Doha Metro service and the public transport service. Part of the industrial area was also closed for the safety of residents while taking continuous medical examination procedures, to protect other areas from further spread of the virus, while ensuring that the daily needs of workers residing there continue to be met and their salaries are paid on same dates;
- Closing retail stores and bank branches in commercial complexes and shopping centers (except for foodstuff stores and pharmacies), closing shops, all men's and women's salons and health clubs in hotels;
- Imposing precautionary measures to prevent all forms of gathering (the Corniche, parks and public beaches and social gatherings);
- Reducing the number of employees in government agencies and workers in the private sector's workplaces to 20% of total number of employees and workers, to ensure the smooth running of public facilities and the completion of necessary activities;
- Helping the private sector (worth of QR 75 billion, or about 10% of GDP) to sustain businesses and jobs during the crisis, in a way that guarantees workers' rights to get their wages.

These procedures were characterized by being rigorous and flexible in light of a continuous evaluation process of the field situation carried out by the competent authorities. Even with the continued vaccination of the population and the expansion of the covered age groups, the number of infections increased daily and the work system has been revised to reduce the attendance rate to

50% now. Precautionary measures have been imposed to prevent all forms of gathering (Corniche, parks and public beaches and social gatherings).

Achieved Progress

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth is a precondition for prosperity. SDG 8 aims to provide opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work for all, while eliminating forced labour, human trafficking and child labour.

Target (8-1): Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7% gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries, which is measured by the annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Target (8-2): Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors, which is measured by the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

Since the adoption of the 17 SDGs in 2015, the State of Qatar has faced three economic shocks: twice from a sharp drop in energy prices, and an economic blockade that lasted three and a half years; and the third one from the repercussions of the epidemic on health and economy. To overcome these challenges, Qatar has deployed its financial and non-financial capabilities to reduce their negative effects on the population's standard of living and on macroeconomic stability. Among the actions taken are the following:

- Increasing capital expenditure on economic diversification projects and infrastructure, which has acted as a financial incentive for economic activities.
- Implementing a package of reforms to improve the business environment, protect workers' rights and duties, raise the efficiency of resource use and increase financial and administrative discipline.

This has led to an increase in the level of productivity of some sectors and an expansion in the use of technology and innovation in several areas, including small and medium industries, banking services, communications, transport and other productive activities.

The participatory approach was also used to involve stakeholders in contributing to overcoming these shocks, in partnership with the private sector, civil society or local communities, which contributed to moving forward towards diversifying the economy and enhancing food security towards self-sufficiency of some agricultural and industrial food commodities

8-1-1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita.

These measures contributed to mitigating the severity of the decline in real per capita GDP from an average of negative 4.7% during the period 2015-2017 to an average of negative 0.35% during the period 2018-2019, before it intensified due to the repercussions of the epidemic containment measures in 2020 to negative 1.69%.

8-2-1 Annual growth rate of GDP per employed person.

Similarly, the measures contributed to an improvement in the per capita real GDP from an average of negative 4.3% during the period 2015-2017 to an average of negative 0.28% during the period 2018-2019, before it intensified due to the repercussions of the COVID-19 containment measures in 2020 to negative 4.6%.



Table (8-1) Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment (2016-2019)

Indicator	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019
Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment	%	0	0	0	0

Source: PSA, Labour Force Sample Survey

Target (8-3): Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8-3-1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex.

The data available in the State of Qatar on the proportion of informal employment in non-agricultural employment indicate that it reached zero for the period (2016-2019) due to the absence of the informal sector as all workers in Qatar work in the formal sector.

Target (8-5): By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

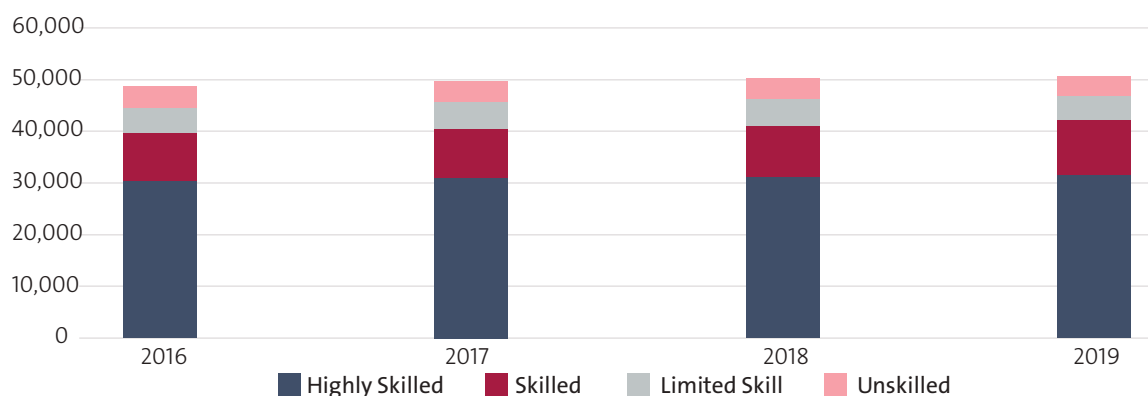
8-5-1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities.

The total average monthly wage of highly skilled workers increased from QR 30,445 in 2016 to QR 31,666 in 2019, an increase of (4.01%). The overall index of average monthly wage of skilled workers indicated an increase from QR 9,332 in 2016 to QR 10,534 in 2019, an increase of (12.8%). The same index, however, showed a decrease among the skilled workers from QR 4,854 in 2016 to QR 4,750 in 2019, and the unskilled workers from QR 4,058 in 2016 to QR 3,844 in 2019, a decrease of (-2.1%) and (-.51%), respectively.

Table (8.2): Average monthly wage in QR of wage earners (15 years and above) by skill level (2016-2019)⁴

Skill Level	2016	2017	2018	2019
Highly skilled	30,445	30,946	31,258	31,666
Skilled	9,332	9,628	9,838	10,534
Limited skill	4,854	5,145	5,099	4,750
Unskilled	4,058	3,964	3,990	3,844

Figure (8.1) Share of average salary increases for the highly skilled and decreases for the low skilled



Source: PSA, Labour Force Sample Survey

4 Highly skilled worker 1-3, skilled worker 4-6, limited skill 7-8, unskilled worker 9. 1 = legislators, senior officials and managers, 2 = specialists, 3 = technicians and assistant professionals, 4 = clerks, 5 = workers in service professions and sales in markets and shops, 6 = workers in agriculture and fishery, 7 = craftsmen and related professions, 8 = factory and machine operators and assembly workers, 9 = workers in primary occupations.

8-5-2 Unemployment rate by sex, age and educational level

The overall unemployment rate witnessed remarkable stability during the period 2016-2019, where it remained at the threshold of (0.1%), meaning that the labour market in Qatar was close to a state of full employment, as the unemployment rate in Qatar is the lowest in the world, compared to the global average (5.4%), the European Union (6.5%) in 2020. During the period 2016-2019, male unemployment rate remained at (0.1%), while female unemployment rate witnessed a significant decrease from (0.7%) in 2016 to (0.4%) in 2019. The rate of female unemployment in Qatar surpassed its male counterpart, but the gap between them is low compared to the proportion of women who are unemployed in various countries around the world, which is 15% higher than that of unemployed men.

As for unemployment by age groups, it increased in the youth group (15 to 24 years) and decreased with age. The youth unemployment rate witnessed a significant decrease from (0.5%) in 2016 to (0.3%) in 2019, which is one of the lowest unemployment rates compared to the OECD countries (17.6%), the United States (27.4%) and the United Kingdom (11.4%)⁵.

Table (8.3) Unemployment rate for adults (15 years and above) by sex, age group and educational status (2016-2019)

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Males	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Females	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4
Total	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

15- 24	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3
25- 34	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
35- 44	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
45- 54	0	0	0	0
55- 64	0	0	0	0
65+	0	0	0	0

Primary	0	0	0	0
Preparatory	0	0.1	0	0
Secondary	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Diploma	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
University and above	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4

Source: PSA, Labour Force Sample Survey

⁵ <http://www.oecd.org/sdd/labour-stats/unemployment-rates-oecd-06-2020.pdf>

Target (8-6): By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

8-6-1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training

Despite its low level, unemployment is concentrated among those holding a university degree and above by 4% during the period 2016-2019, followed by the diploma holders, which started at 0.1% in 2016 to settle at 0.2%. during the same period, the percentage of secondary school certificate holders fluctuated between 0.1% and 0.2 % to almost disappear among primary and preparatory school certificate holders.

The term “youth not in employment, education or training” is relatively new and has gained much attention in the international media. It is worth noting that since there is no single definition of youth not in employment, education or training, it is difficult to determine their exact number, which in turn proves to be difficult when formulating policies. The low percentage of this category is a true evidence of a smooth transition from school to work. However, it should not hide the challenges associated with aligning the job with the original specialization of the employee or worker.

The percentage of young people between the ages of (15-24 years) who did not receive an education, training or employment decreased from (2.2%) in 2016 to (2%) in 2019 with the concentration of females in this category, as they represented approximately 7% during the period 2016-2019, compared to less than 1% for males during the same period. This reflects that the State's efforts to provide job, training and study opportunities for the youth of both sexes clearly attract more males than females. It should be noted that this percentage is very small compared to the Middle East and North Africa (33%), the GCC countries, (13% to 31%)⁶, OECD countries (13.5%) and the United States of America (13%). It is even lower than Sweden (5.47%) and Singapore (4.13%) in 2019⁷.

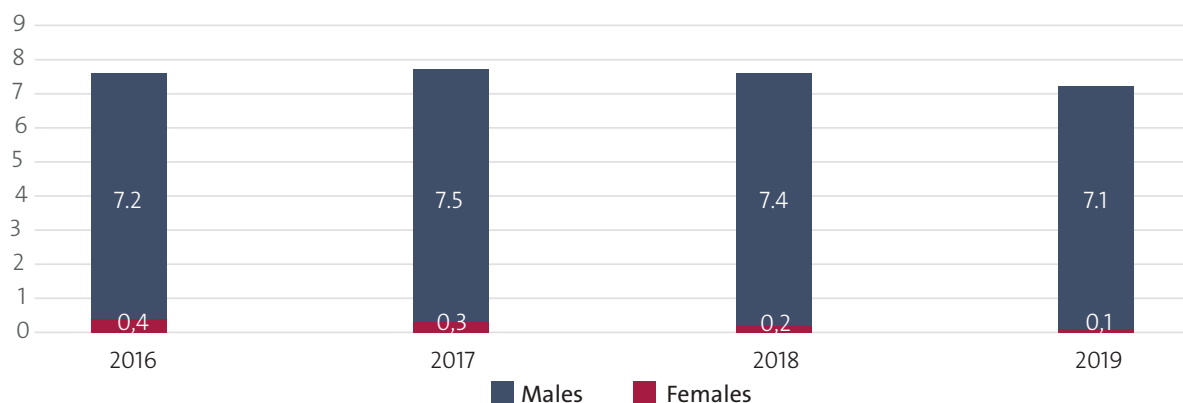
Table (8.4) Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training by sex and age group (2016 -2019)

Sex	2016	2017	2018	2019
Males	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
Females	7.2	7.5	7.4	7.1
Total	2.2	2.3	2.3	2
Gender Parity Index	18	25	37	71

6 MPRA, Counting the NEETs for Countries with no or less Data, Using Information on Unemployment of Youth Aged 15-24: The Case of Arab Countries, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco, 2017.

7 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.NEET.ZS>

Figure (8.2) Young girls are concentrated in those not in education, employment or training



Source: PSA, Labour Force Sample Survey

Target (8-7): Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

8-7-1 Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age.

The statistical data indicate that the State of Qatar is completely free from child labour, as the proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour was zero throughout the period (2016-2019)⁸. This means that the goal related to eradicate child labour in all its forms has been achieved ten years ahead of deadline. The Qatari legislation prohibits the work of minors, and Article (86) of Labour Law No. (14) of 2004 states: "It is not permissible to employ a person who has not attained the age of sixteen in any work, nor is he/she permitted to enter any workplace".

Target (8-8): Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

8-8-1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status.

In 2010, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development took the initiative to sponsor expatriate workers by establishing a mandatory framework of standards to protect workers and encourage ethical practices in construction projects. At the beginning of 2014, the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy - which oversees Qatar's plans to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup - began launching standards of optimal care for workers, including payment of wages, worker accommodation, occupational health and safety, and periodic monitoring to ensure compliance with these standards.

⁸ PSA, Labour Force Sample Survey 2019.

The number of severe and medium occupational injuries in the State of Qatar decreased from (580) injuries in 2016 to (440) injuries in 2019, a decrease of (24.1%), thanks to the strict application of occupational safety procedures, and the creation of a safe working environment for workers. The figures for male injuries accounted for (98.6%) of total injuries in 2019, since most of the injuries occur in the construction sector, which is mostly restricted to males. The number of fatal work injuries increased from (35) deaths in 2016 to (123) deaths in 2018, due to the increase in the number of workers in the construction sector. The State of Qatar recorded 1.4 fatal injuries per 100,000 workers⁹, which is equal to Finland, compared to 5.3 for the United States of America and 1.1 for Singapore.

Table (8.5) Number of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries by sex (2016-2018)

	Sex	2016	2017	2018	2019
Severe and moderate injuries	Males	580	487	440	446
	Females	4	7	6	
	Total	584	494	446	446
Fatal injuries	Males	35	111	121	
	Females	0	6	2	
	Total	35	117	123	

It is worth mentioning that the State of Qatar is characterized by a dynamic economy, where the artisanal workforce dominates the population. Faced with this, occupational injuries and illnesses are important public health challenges that need to be addressed in an appropriate manner to ensure the health and well-being of the workforce. This calls for intensifying occupational health and safety programs, especially those that focus on educating craftsmen and ensuring that safety standards are observed, which will contribute to reducing this percentage.

8-8-2 Level of national compliance to labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status.

Labour Law No. (14) of 2004, Chapter 12 on (Labour Organizations), and Chapter 13 on (Joint Committees, Collective Bargaining and Joint Agreements), stipulates the mechanisms, requirements and regulation of freedom of association and collective bargaining. The State of Qatar signed a technical cooperation agreement (2018-2020) with the ILO during the meeting of the ILO Board of Directors at the 331st session held in Geneva, where the cooperation plan includes several goals, including goal (5) related to giving a voice to workers. For this purpose, 6 projects will be implemented, namely:

- 5.1 Improve national complaint mechanisms for workers;
- 5.2 Create ILO support for workers to file complaints through national mechanism, including follow-up to ensure prompt and fair treatment and non-retaliation;
- 5.3 Establish Joint Workers' Committees;

⁹ PSA, Labour Force Survey 2018.

- 5.4 Educate migrant workers about their rights and obligations, especially with regard to submitting complaints, required documents and various other procedural issues;
- 5.5 Improve legislation and the performance of Workers' Committees.
- 5.6 Carry out a national awareness campaign about rights at work and build capacity for all relevant workers, employers and government officials in Qatar.

Target (8.9): By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

The tourism sector in Qatar has an integrated infrastructure of establishments such as restaurants, hotels, parks, resorts, tourist camps, floating hotels, health clubs and recreational facilities. It also provides tourist areas with archaeological and historical aspects and a diverse climatic environment with attractive entertainment infrastructure in commercial complexes. The tourism sector further organizes festivals and tourism events, and provides facilitation services such as offices, transport and tourist guides.

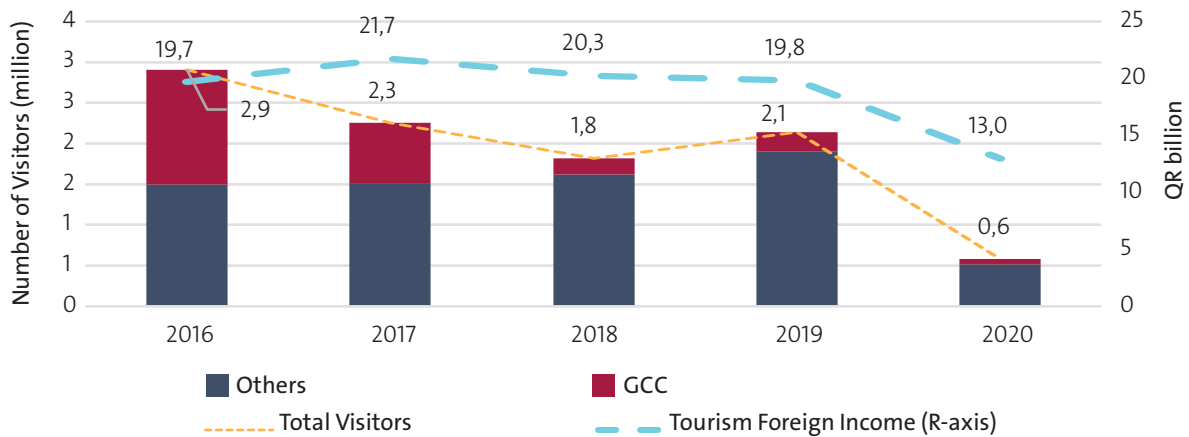
Since 2018, the tourism sector has witnessed a radical change in its organizational structure to match its potential as one of the priority sectors for economic diversification. As such, the National Tourism Council was established by Emiri Decree No. (74) of 2018 to assume the function of regulating tourism under Law No. (20) of 2018, and to organize festivals and business events under Law No. (21) of 2018. It further supervises development of tourism under the programs and projects of the national strategy for the tourism sector in coordination with the relevant government agencies and the private sector.

The tourism sector is one of the highly sensitive economic activities that are affected by geopolitical developments or economic fluctuations. It was affected by the repercussions of the blockade imposed on the State of Qatar in the middle of 2017 until early 2021 by some neighboring countries, which led to a decrease in the proportion of arrivals from the GCC countries from 49 % of total arrivals in 2016 to 33% in 2017 before declining to an average of 11% during the period 2018 – 2020 as the figure below indicates. In view of the stability of the number of arrivals from other countries, and the repercussions of the blockade, the number of arrivals witnessed a decrease of 22% and 19% % during 2017 and 2018, respectively, before witnessing a growth of about 17% in 2019. However, it declined again to 73% due to the repercussions of COVID-19 pandemic.

8-9-1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate.

During the period 2016-2019, the average total income from foreign tourism to the State of Qatar amounted to about 3.4% of total GDP, before declining to 2.4% in 2020 due to the repercussions of COVID-19 on the tourism sector. In terms of the annual rate of change of direct income of foreign tourists according to the balance of payments, after the sector witnessed an average growth rate of 8.9% during 2016-2017, it witnessed a decline during 2018-2019 by an average of 4.5% due to the blockade imposed on Qatar, before it declined further due to the repercussions of COVID-19 in 2020 at a rate of 34%, as Figure (8-3) below indicates.

Figure (8.3) The evolvement of income from foreign tourism in the State of Qatar



Source: PSA and QCB

According to the annual report of the World Travel and Tourism Council in London (WTTC) 2019, the contribution of the travel and tourism sector to the Qatari economy in 2019 amounted to about US\$17.5 billion, equivalent to 9.1% of GDP, and it provided job opportunities for more than 250 thousand employees, equivalent to 11.8% of total workforce. While the expenditures of foreign tourists (direct as stated in the balance of payments) and indirect amounted to about US\$13.3 billion, equivalent to 13.4% of total exports.

By the end of 2020, the number of tourist hotel rooms reached about 32,000. By 2022, it is expected that about 13,000 rooms will be added, which will provide enough hotel space to accommodate the 2022 FIFA World Cup audience. In 2019, the total number of visitors who arrived in Qatar, most of whom were tourists, reached about 2.1 million visitors, an increase of 17% from 2018. The proportion of visitors from the GCC countries accounted for about 11%, while the remaining 89% from the rest of the world were distributed over 41.4% from Asia, 29% from Europe, 8.9% from the Americas and 7.1% from other Arab countries. According to the balance of payments, the average income from travel activities to Qatar during the period 2016-2019 was about US\$5.6 billion. However, economic activities related to tourism were affected by the COVID-19 containment measures, which led to a decrease in the number of visitors by more than 72% and a decrease in income by more than 34.5%.

Thanks to the legislative, administrative and institutional reforms, Qatar has been ranked as one of the most open countries in the Middle East (8th in the world) in terms of visa facilitation. In 2019, nearly 80,000 travelers took advantage of overnight stopover privileges when transiting through Doha, or through a free 96-hour transit visit and overnight hotel stay at a reduced hotel price. Since the opening of Doha Port in 2017, the number of cruise ships reached about 60 cruise ships in 2019 until early 2020, carrying about 207,000 visitors. Qatar hosted 545 international conferences and events since 2014, including 148 in 2019. In the field of sports tourism, Qatar hosted nearly 80 sporting events in the past three years, including the World Athletics Championships and the first ANOC World Beach Games in 2019. Of course, the State of Qatar is in the process of finalizing the hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2022, and the FINA World Swimming Championships in 2023.

Target (8.10): Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

The government, represented by Qatar Central Bank, always seeks to direct local banks to provide banking services to all members of society, in addition to promoting financial education for the community.

8-10-1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults.

In implementation of government directives, the average number of commercial bank branches in Qatar per 100,000 adults (working force of 15 years and older) reached about 17.29 branches during the period (2018-2020). The average number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults reached about 88.8 ATMs over the same period.

8-10-2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider.

The proportion of the Qatari population (15 years and older) who have an account in a Qatari bank increased from 55% of total workforce (15 years and older) in 2018 to 69% in 2020.

Target (8.b): By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, which is measured through the total government expenditure in social protection and employment programs as a percentage of national budgets and GDP.

With regards to government expenditure in areas related to social protection and employment programs, it amounted to about QR 8.3 billion in 2019, i.e. 4% of total public expenditures, at a rate of 1.3% of GDP. The annual change rate was about 2.4% compared to 2018.

Challenges

The issue of the labour market in Qatar constitutes a structural challenge, as the Qatari economy depends on expatriate labour for its operation, which makes it vulnerable to any international fluctuations in the international labour markets. One cannot help but notice how the measures to contain COVID-19 pandemic have been reflected on the labour market in all countries of the world, including Qatar, as social distancing policies have encouraged the use of modern information technology in work and businesses, which, though it increases the productivity of skilled employees, will lead to layoffs for unskilled labour. The policy of closing schools and encouraging distance education has directly affected the workforce of women, as many of them were forced to either leave jobs or reduce working hours.

Also, the technological progress witnessed by the world today in the field of robotics and AI programs that replace routine jobs in manufacturing and services may lead to the dispensation of many jobs and thus increase unemployment.

With regards to the State of Qatar, despite the efforts endeavoured to achieve this goal, there are still some challenges that can be summarized as follows:

- Relative high unemployment, by age groups, among young people aged 15-24 years;
- Unemployment is concentrated among those with a university degree or higher, at a rate of 4% during the years 2016-2019;
- Girls are concentrated in this category, as they represented approximately 7% in 2016-2019 compared to less than 1% for males during the same period. This reflects that Qatar's efforts to provide employment, training and study opportunities for young men of both sexes clearly attract more males than females.

Conclusion

The state of Qatar has been able to achieve many indicators of the target of “achieving full and productive employment, and providing decent work opportunities for all, including youth and women”, through the implementation of the legislative and administrative system for the labour market in Qatar. This, in turn, has led to making Qatar free of child labour, and its labour market has become transparent and competitive in line with international standards. The most important developments are: The establishment of a fund to support workers and secure them from risks with the availability of precautionary measures in the workplace to protect workers and ensure their safety; raising the minimum wage, and establishment of labour visa issuance centers in many labour-exporting countries, while providing job search platforms so as to rotate skilled workers and even enable the private sector to attract them, in addition to unified platforms for submitting labour complaints and resolving disputes. Thanks to these legislative and administrative reforms, the wage rate has increased, the living conditions of workers have improved, and the number of occupational injuries has decreased from 580 in 2016 to 440 in 2019, i.e. by 24%. There are more reforms to come, as the State of Qatar is implementing, in cooperation with the ILO, several projects targeting deeper improvements to legislation, mechanisms for filing complaints, ensuring prompt and fair treatment and non-retaliation, establishing joint labor committees, and educating migrant workers about their rights and duties.

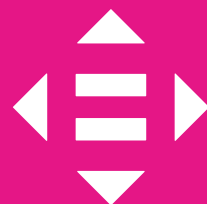
It is clear from the above that the unemployment rate remained stable at about 0.1% during the period 2015-2020, which means that the labour market in Qatar is close to full employment, compared to the global average unemployment of 5.4%. When distributing unemployment by age groups, however, it is high among the youth group (15 to 24 years), ranging between 0.3% and 0.5%, but it decreases with age. It also varies according to educational qualification, as unemployment was concentrated by about 4% for university degree holders during the period 2016-2019, but very low for diploma and high school certificate holders, ranging between 0.1% and 0.2%.

As for wage level developments, the average monthly wage of wage earners increased during the period 2017-2019 by 1.3% for high skilled workers, and by 4.6% for medium skilled workers, but it decreased for limited and unskilled workers. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, which led to the reduction of the salaries of high and medium skill workers, the average wage is expected to decrease. On the other hand, in view of the legal amendments to raise the minimum wage for low-skilled and unskilled workers in 2020, their average wage is expected to rise.





10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



SDG 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 10 aims to ensure equal opportunities through legislation and policies that ensure sustainable improved living conditions for all. Besides, the Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar has laid the foundations for a society based on the values of justice, benevolence, freedom, equality, high moral values and equal opportunities for all residents of Qatar alike. The constitution also provides for social justice as a basis for regulation of economic institutions and the employee- employer relationship. It defines the state's commitment to improving education, health, and effective social protection in addition to women empowerment. Several principles based on fundamental rights have been included in the structure of legal, institutional and development planning of the State of Qatar, including the Qatar National Vision 2030, NDS-1 (2011-2016) and NDS-2 (2018-2022).

The State of Qatar has maintained its rank in the Human Development Index in the category of countries with the highest human development. According to the Development Indicators of the United Nations Development Program for 2020, Qatar has made significant progress in all social development indicators, as it is ranked 45 out of 189 countries. The average life expectancy in Qatar is 80.4 years in 2019 with a higher rate in favour of women, and the proportion of the population with access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation was 96.2% and 96%, respectively in 2017.

Similarly, the percentage of the population with access to electricity and internet services was around 100% and 97.4% respectively in 2017. The law index for businesswomen was around 32.5 (0-100) in 2019 as per the World Bank database.

As the State of Qatar relies heavily on expatriate labour to develop its economy, thus, expatriate labour constitutes 73.4% of the population and 95% of the workforce during the period 2015-2020. As part of the government's efforts to achieve equality, legislative and administrative amendments were made to liberalize the labour market and make it more competitive in attracting workers and protecting their material and moral rights, as laws related to the labour market were amended, including replacing the sponsorship system with a contractual employment system that gives workers the freedom to change jobs, travel, move and bring in their families.

Besides, a fund has been established to insure workers against any risks they face, and joint work committees to settle labour disputes, with an emphasis on ensuring that workers receive their full compensation regardless of the outcome of the dispute.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Qatar seeks to preserve all aspects of equality, as the state provides Coronavirus vaccination to all its residents, whether Qataris or expats, free of charge. This reinforces the recommendations of the WHO Emergency Committee to fight against inequality in vaccine distribution.

Box 10.1: The principles of equality in Qatar Constitution

The principles of equality are incorporated in the following constitutional articles:

- The Qatari society is based on the values of justice, benevolence, freedom, equality and high morals.
- The State shall safeguard the foundations of the society and ensure security, stability and equal opportunities for all citizens.
- Citizens shall be equal in terms of public rights and duties.
- All persons are equal before the Law and there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of gender, race, language or religion.
- The State shall ensure the right of citizens to vote and to be elected in accordance with the Law.
- All citizens have the right to education, and the State shall endeavor to make general education compulsory and free of charge in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of the State.

Source: Qatar Permanent Constitution <http://https://www.almeezan.qa/LawPage.aspx?id=2284&language=ar>

The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 was concerned with aligning the targets of the human development goals with the goals of the national strategy. Qatar National Vision 2030 aims to modernize the population of the State of Qatar so that they can sustain a prosperous society based on justice and equality. It is based on four basic pillars, namely: (1) Human Development: Development of the population of the State of Qatar to enable them to sustain a prosperous society. (2) Social Development: Development of a just and caring society, based on high morals and social care, and capable of dealing and interacting with other societies, and playing an significant role in the global partnership for development. (3) Economic Development: Development of a competitive and diversified economy capable of meeting the needs of, and securing a high standard of living for, all its people for the present and for the future. (4) Environmental Development: Management of the environment such that there is harmony between economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The following figure provides the extent of alignment of the targets of the goal with the goals of the NDS-2 (2018-2022).

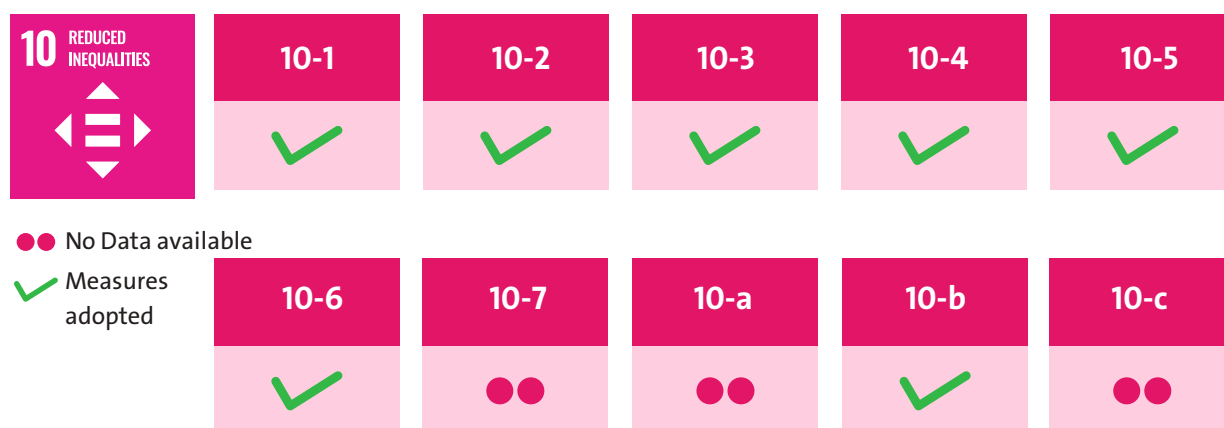
Table (10.1) Alignment of the targets of the goal with the goals of the NDS-2 (2018-2022)

Sector	Aligned Goals of NDS-2 (2018-2022)	Targets						
		10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.7
Social Protection	Develop three social protection regulations and legislations by the end of 2022							
	Promote job and social qualification opportunities for 70% of the working-age vulnerable groups who are able to work, during 2018-2022.							
Institutional Development, Service Provision and Fiscal Management	Improve the quality and transparency of financial data							
International Cooperation	Effective coordination and integration between the fiscal policy and monetary policy.							
	Upgrade communication of ministries and government agencies with international organizations through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of International Cooperation by 25% starting from 2017.							

The progress of the goal at the level of targets and best practices

Figure 10.1 shows the progress made at the level of SDG10 targets. One can say that Qatar has achieved progress in achieving SDG10, and work is underway to provide data for targets with no data.

Figure 10.1 Status of progress in terms of the targets



Target (10-1): By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Since the data of the Household Expenditure and Income Survey (HEIS) for 2018 has not yet been analyzed for technical reasons, data of the 2013 HEIS 2013 as shown in the table below will be used as an indicator of the relative distribution of income and expenditure, bearing in mind that the per capita household expenditure from the National Account Bulletin indicates that the average rate of the annual change in current prices amounted to 1.1% during the period 2017-2019 before declining by 9.2% in 2020, and in constant prices, it amounted to 1.3% during the same period before declining by 6.8% in 2020 due to the repercussions of containing COVID-19 on the living expenses of families in Qatar.

As for the average per capita GDP during the period 2017-2019, it amounted to about US\$62.8 thousand at current prices before declining to about \$53 thousand in 2020 due to the repercussions of COVID-19 on the nominal GDP.

But its average at constant prices during the same period, was about US\$66.3 thousand before declining slightly to about \$65 thousand in 2020.

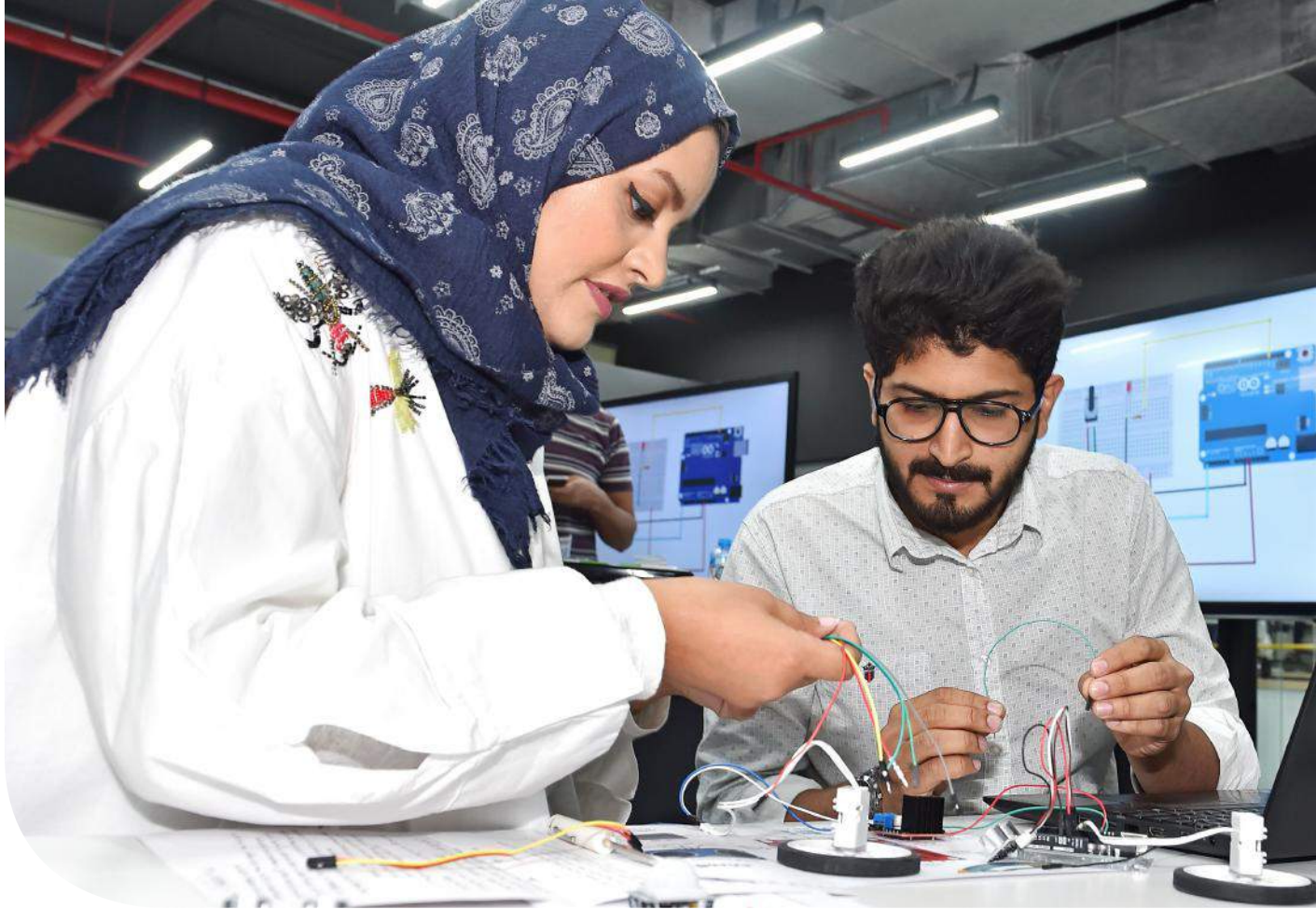
Table (10.2) Average per capita and household income in each quintile by income sources and income distribution (2012/2013)

Income Sources	Distribution of Quintiles					
	First quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Fifth quintile	Qataris
Wages & salaries	76.6	67.7	67.3	63.7	64	66.9
Private projects and self-employment	2.2	4.4	3.9	4.7	5.5	4.4
Property income	0.3	1.5	1.6	2.1	4.2	2.2
Pension	7.1	9.2	8.7	9.1	7.2	8.2
Transfers & other sources	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7
Income from imputed rent	12.9	16.6	17.9	19.7	18.6	17.6
Total income	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average household income (QR) per month	84,561	85,947	87,837	83,615	95,982	88,217
Average per capita income (QR) per month	6,960	8,769	10,295	10,628	14,341	10,200
Source: PSA, Household Expenditure and Income Survey 2012/2013						

Table (10.3) Average per capita and household income in each quintile by income sources (2012/2013)

Income Sources	Share of each quintile of income sources					
	First quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Fifth quintile	Qataris
Wages & salaries	15.6	17.4	20.3	19.8	26.9	100
Private projects and self-employment	6.8	17.2	18	22.4	35.6	100
Property income	1.7	11.4	14.9	19.2	52.8	100
Pension	11.8	19.2	21.3	23.1	24.6	100
Transfers & other sources	17.8	19.8	18.1	22.5	21.9	100
Income from imputed rent	10	16.2	20.5	23.3	29.9	100
Total income	13.6	17.2	20.2	20.8	28.2	100
Average household income (QR) per month	84,561	85,947	87,837	83,615	95,982	88,217
Average per capita income (QR) per month	6,960	8,769	10,295	10,628	14,341	10,200

Source: PSA, Household Expenditure and Income Survey 2012/2013



Target (10-2): By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

The State of Qatar pays great attention to empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all. This is realistically embodied in The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 through its effective projects. The State of Qatar has a set of legislation and laws and has ratified many international instruments to promote inclusion and preservation of people's rights.

Among the most successful practices to promote ensuring equal opportunities and reducing inequalities is the role of civil society institutions, foremost of which is the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, which is a non-profit development institution that contributes to human and social development and serving the Qatari society through our specialized affiliated centres in the fields of supporting family stability, orphan care, child and woman protection, youth empowerment, care and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, and elderly care. Table 10.4 shows the data for the indicators of target 10.2:

Table (10.4) Proportion of Qatari households with Low standard of living and limited income by selected characteristics (2012/2013)

Selected Characteristics		Proportion of low standard of living households	Proportion of low-income households
Proportion of Qatari Households		3	6.4
Head of household sex	Male	6.2	6.2
	Female	7.6	7.6
Head of household age	Less than 30	2.7	2.7
	30-39	3.8	3.8
	40-49	8.9	8.9
	50-59	5.8	5.8
	60 and above	6.3	6.3
Head of household education level	Below Primary	14.5	14.5
	Primary/ Preparatory	9.4	9.4
	Secondary	5.6	5.6
	Post-Secondary Diploma	0.6	0.6
	University and Above	1.6	1.6
Head of household marital status	Single	1.1	1.1
	Married	6.6	6.6
	Divorced/Divorcee	12.1	12.1
	Widow/ed	4.7	4.7
Head of household's employment status	Employed	4.7	4.7
	Unemployed	0	0
	Student	0	0
	Housewife	8.1	8.1
	Others	10	10
Household size	1-3	1.7	1.7
	4-6	4.4	4.4
	7-9	4.3	4.3
	10-12	8.6	8.6
	13 +	14.6	14.6
No. of children in household	0	3.3	3.3
	1-2	4.1	4.1
	3-4	3.6	3.6
	5 +	16.2	16.2
Gender Parity Index		1.23	1.23

Source: PSA, Household Expenditure and Income Survey

Target (10-3): Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

The State of Qatar has an integrated institutional and legislative system for the protection of human rights - represented on the institutional side by the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC), which is responsible for following up on ensuring the achievement of equality and the protection of material and moral human rights.

NHRC is also mandated to work with international human rights organizations in developing and modernizing its legislative and institutional system in line with international standards.

Over the past few years, NHRC has contributed to the modernization and development of administrative systems for the public and private sectors in line with regional and international conventions in the field of human rights. One of the most important mechanisms of its work is that it receives complaints from all segments of society and pays most attention to the most vulnerable and affected groups in society.

The latest data indicates that the number of complaints during the period from March to June 2020 amounted to 911 complaints, most of which were related to complaints about wages, housing and food allowances. The committee worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs, and charitable institutions to find solutions to all complaints. The committee also receives requests for financial assistance and to find work for the unemployed. All such requests are studied and referred to the competent authorities, with mentioning the humanitarian situation of the applicant, and then follow up with the competent authorities to find solutions to them.

NHRC also studies all legislation, procedures and practices to monitor cases of inequality, and makes recommendations to remove any discriminatory texts, and receives complaints from all members of society to settle them in cooperation with the competent departments. NHRC made a number of recommendations in order to reduce inequality, including:

1. Review national legislation such as nationality, family, housing and association laws,
2. Drafting legislation to organize litigation before national courts in connection with any act that is inconsistent with the provisions of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and to seek fair and adequate compensation for the damage,
3. Activation of the Supreme Constitutional Court.

From this point of view, the Committee monitored the humanitarian conditions of low-paid workers, as they are among the most favoured groups.

In this vein, NHRC examined humanitarian conditions of low-wage workers as one of the most vulnerable groups and the extent to which their economic, social and civil rights were affected. this includes their access to free health care, and their continued empowerment of work-related rights such as wages and allowances, and it had a role with the competent authorities in raising the minimum wage.

The Blockade measures imposed by some neighboring countries on the State of Qatar during the period from June 5, 2017 to January 5, 2021 had negative economic, social and political effects, as the number of complaints from the affected groups amounted to more than four thousand complaints. The State of Qatar dealt with all issues in a civilized manner, where the committee communicated with relevant institutions at the regional and international levels to find solutions to these complaints.

Target (10-4): Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

Guided by the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 and The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, the State of Qatar has adopted fiscal and monetary policies aimed at achieving more rights and equality for the workforce in the country, where monetary policy tools have been used to stabilize inflation rates in a manner that preserves the purchasing power of labour force's incomes at the state level.

Table (10.5) Labour Share of GDP

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
%	4.0	3.9	3.5	3.7	4.6

Source: PSA

Wages and salaries expenditures in the State of Qatar during the period 2017-2020 constituted about 50% of the total current expenditures. Moreover, social protection expenditures from subsidies and transfers represented about 6% of the total current expenditures. Despite the financial challenges that the State of Qatar has faced since 2014 due to the deterioration of public revenues resulting from the decline in oil and gas revenues, the employment and salary levels for public and mixed sector employees remained stable throughout the period, where the focus was on aligning expenditures with revenue levels by rationalizing non-essential or unnecessary expenditures such as expenditures on goods and services, and capital expenditures. In addition, a limited rationalization of the wage's expenses of the higher-income segments of employees.

Table (10-5) below indicates that the share of wages for the labor force in the State of Qatar in the total GDP remained stable during the period 2016-2019, before increasing its percentage in 2020 as a result of the decline in GDP due to the repercussions of COVID-19.

Among the policies and measures adopted by the state that are consistent with Target (10-4) is the decision to abolish the condition that the current employer has no objection to changing workers to their workplace.

Ministerial Resolution No. (25) of 2020 was also issued to determine the minimum wage for workers and domestic workers, which obliges the employer to pay the workers a basic wage of no less than 1,000 Qatari riyals per month, while providing them with adequate housing and food, or equivalent allowances (300 riyals per month for food and 500 riyals per month for housing).

In accordance with the ministerial decision, Law No. (17) of 2020 was issued, which entered into force in March 2021.

The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour, and Social Affairs shall amend work contracts in which the worker's wage is less than the aforementioned minimum, in coordination with employers and without prejudice to any agreement providing for a higher wage.

Target (10.5): Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

The Qatar National Vision 2030, in the Economic Development Pillar and national development strategies, refers to the enhancement of the sustainability of economic prosperity. In this regard, one of the challenges mentioned in the Qatar National Vision 2030 is to “choose and manage a pathway that delivers prosperity yet avoids economic imbalances and stresses.” Providing economic stability is a prerequisite for inducing investors to make long-term commitments to expand the productive base. The government realizes the importance of having a central bank whose aim is to monitor and direct the banking system in the country, and in general to maintain monetary and financial stability and contribute to promoting economic growth. Qatar Central Bank undertakes the development and implementation of the State’s monetary policy in its capacity as the supreme competent authority, within the framework of QNV 2030 and in accordance with the best international standards and practices. Table No. (10.6) shows data of Target 10.5 on financial health indicators.

10-5-1 Financial Soundness Indicators.

Table (10.6) All commercial bank branches within Qatar (2016-2019)

Financial Soundness Indicators	2016/12	2017/12	2018/12	2019/12	2020/12
Capital to total assets	10.69	10.7	10.11	9.88	9.6
First tranche of ordinary shares to risk weighted assets	15.7	16.5	17	17.5	17.6
First tranche of regulatory capital to risk weighted assets	16.1	16.8	18	18.6	18.8
Capital adequacy index	15.76	16.23	17.6	18.6	16.9
Percentage of net non-performing loans	1.33	1.57	1.88	1.8	2
Provision for non-performing loans to non-performing loans	79.88	83.23	75.77	81.94	83.8
Returns on equity	14.49	13.87	15.3	15.76	13.7
Net profit to average assets	1.67	1.54	1.6	1.64	1.4
Interest margin to gross income	75.13	78.12	76.97	77.01	79.5
Expenditures other than interest to total income	28.78	26.76	25.88	24.44	21.2
Liquid assets to liquid liabilities	29.57	28.18	29.11	30.2	28.1
Liquid assets to short-term liabilities	54.69	54.23	62.65	69.73	67

Source: Qatar Central Bank

Target (10-6): Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

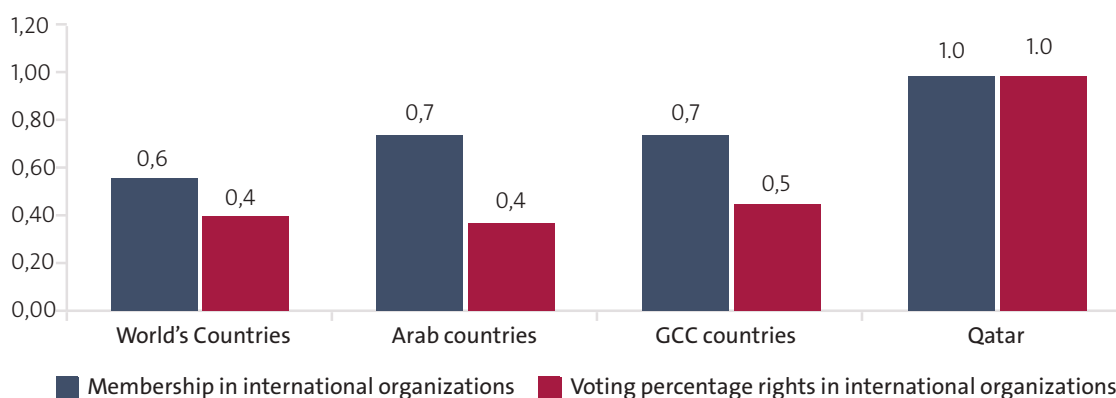
In the spirit of its belief in the importance of the strategic partnership with the United Nations, the State of Qatar is keen to contribute actively to the efforts by the international community to maintain international peace and security, support the development process, without which the desired goals of the United Nations would not be achieved, in addition to the promotion of human rights, humanitarian assistance, and participation in collective action to address existing and emerging challenges facing the world. The State of Qatar is omnipresent in most of the United Nations activities and in regional and international groups working on finding solutions to regional and international crises, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. It is one of the troop-contributing countries participating in the United Nations peacekeeping missions. As a contribution by the State of Qatar to regional and international efforts, Doha has hosted conferences, meetings and workshops on the promotion of international peace and security, development, democracy, human rights and the culture of peace. Table (10.6) and Figure No. (10.1) show the organizations and bodies in which Qatar is a member.

Table (10.7) Organizations and institutions in which Qatar is a member and has the right to vote 2019

Organization/Institution	Membership	Voting Right
United Nations General Assembly	Yes	Yes
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Yes	Yes
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	Yes	Yes
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Yes	Yes The voting power of the presented issues is weighted according to the capital that each director represents

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Figure (10.2): Membership and voting rights in international organizations



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Target (10-7): Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

As partners in development, workers in Qatar enjoy various forms of economic, social and health care and legal protection for their rights and wages, as well as a better work environment, through legal legislation in addition to the strategic partnership between Qatar and the International Labour Organization after opening its headquarters in Doha.

10-7-1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination.

Under the provisions of Article (33) of Labour Law No. 14 of 2004, persons who are licensed to recruit workers from abroad shall be prohibited from collecting from the recruited workers any sums of money as recruitment fees or other charges. It must be noted that work visas granted to the establishments are free of charge, and therefore no cost of recruitment shall be borne by the worker as a proportion of his/her annual income received.

Table (10.8) shows data for indicator 10.7.2: Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies and the movement of people in an orderly, safe, regular and responsible manner.

Table (10.8) Implementation of well-managed expatriate policies (2016-2019)

Description	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019
Implementation of well-managed expatriate policies	Text (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs

Target 10.a: Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

Indicator 10.a.1: Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff

Since the customs tariff of the State of Qatar is low and even zero for more than 400 food commodities, and therefore there is no discrimination in the customs tariff according to the level of income of countries, whether developing or developed, there is a fixed rate of 5% of customs duties on the basis of value,

However, there is an exemption for about 400 food products, as well as 15% for musical instruments and products. There is also a 20% tariff on iron bars and its alloys and 12 mm steel bars,

and 30% on imported urea as a crystalline substance for teeth whitening.

Target 10.c: By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

Indicator 10.c.1: Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted

Qatar Central Bank has reduced the maximum limits for commissions and fees on banking services (which will be borne by the customer) in 2019.

The maximum commissions from one bank to another in Qatar were reduced from 10 riyals to 60 dirhams for transactions less than a hundred Qatari riyals, to 4 riyals for transactions from one hundred to one million Qatari riyals, and 6 riyals for transactions more than one million Qatari riyals. It is worth noting that the transaction costs in Qatar are low compared to other countries in general.

Target (10.b): Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

The State of Qatar is keen to provide humanitarian and development assistance to needy countries around the world, and to contribute to achieving The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the framework of its commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, especially the principle of cooperation and partnership. Qatar, with its strong political will, is committed to continuing its activity in development policy as one of the components of its international cooperation strategy within The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022. Tables (10.9) and (10.10) and Figure (10.3) show the data for the indicators for Target 10.b.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Qatar Fund for Development made a commitment through official development assistance (ODA), in partnership with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), to support COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility. The Gavi COVAX AMC (Advance Market Commitment) is an innovative financial mechanism aims to procure 1.3 billion doses of a safe and efficacious vaccine by the end of 2021. Ensuring a fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines to 92 Official Development Assistance eligible countries.

Table (10.9) Total resource flows for development, by sector (2016-2019)

Sector	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Education	QR	27,163,147	29,097,141	49,369,825		Increase
Health		2,900,743	45,994,708	6,069,401		Increase
Infrastructure		20,574,559	75,763,800	67,168,510		Increase
Others		88,619,549	34,271,866	38,213,882		Increase
Total		39,257,998	185,127,514	160,821,617		Increase

Education	US\$	98,873,854	105,913,594	179,706,162		
Health		10,558,705	167,420,736	22,092,619		
Infrastructure		74,891,394	275,780,231	244,493,375		
Others		322,575,158	124,749,591	139,098,530		
Total		506,899,111	673,864,152	585,390,686		Increase

Source: Qatar Development Bank

Table (10.10) Value of Development Assistance for SDG 10 (2016-2019)

SDG	SDG Title	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
10	Reduced inequality	QR	438,024	8,536,632			Increase
		US\$	120,336	2,345,229			Increase

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Challenges

QNV 2030 and national development strategies in Qatar call for an integrated approach to solid social development that aims at the well-being of the individual and society and ensuring equal opportunities. The Mid-term Review report of NSD-1 revealed a number of challenges that hinder the implementation of this social approach, including the lack of systems for coordinating projects and reviewing legislation related to social protection, the limited number of training and rehabilitation centers for vulnerable groups, and the lack of a good systematic database for measuring social protection.

Qatar has made great strides towards development in general. Qatar Human Development Index value in 2019 put the country in the very high human development category— positioning it at 45 out of 189 countries as per the UNDP's 2020 Human Development Report. Significant improvements in the standard of living as well as gains in life expectancy have contributed most to raising Qatar's HDI value. A rights-based approach to development calls for greater efforts to be exerted to address inequalities and exclusion. Inequalities and exclusion tend to mirror rights not observed. As a result, the State of Qatar has fallen several places in the global rankings, due to the indicators of the Gender Development Index (GDI) and the Gender Inequality Index (GII) due to the relatively high inequality between women and men in gross national income and labor market participation *. The absence of a database for the social protection system is one of the most important challenges, as the accuracy of the data obtained for international organizations affects international indicators.

Conclusion

It is clear from the above that the Qatar National Vision 2030 aims to achieve sustainable economic development from the perspective of achieving equality and social justice as embodied in the constitution.

As a whole, the policies, programs and projects of national development strategies aim to improve the well-being of Qatari society regardless of age, gender, race, religion or economic status.

The State of Qatar has adopted several programs and legal amendments to address some of the imbalances in managing the affairs of a segment of expatriate workers, with the aim of improving their living conditions and preserving their financial and moral rights, such as raising the minimum wage,

Abolishing the sponsorship system, giving them the ability to change jobs and residence, facilitate their movement, open bank accounts, and transfer their savings at the lowest costs.

It is worth noting that to the extent that the Qatari economy benefits from the services of semi-skilled and unskilled labour, the countries that export such labour benefit through the financial returns and practical experience gained while working in Qatar's development projects. The total current transfers of expatriate workers (remittances) during the period (2011-2020) amounted to about \$113.4 billion, with an annual average of \$11.4 billion.

The Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar supports fundamental rights and liberties, and also affirms the interdependence and indivisibility of human rights. The fundamental rights stipulated in the constitution include the right to equality before the law; the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex; personal freedom; the right to work, the right to education. Furthermore, the constitution states that these rights may not be regulated or amended in a way that restricts or compromises them.

National efforts were not confined only to strengthening the role of state institutions, but also included strengthening the legislative framework in many areas, most notably the issuance of the Emiri Decree establishing the Higher Committee to prepare for the Shura Council elections; the Cabinet's decision to form a committee to harmonize national legislation with the two international covenants; and the Cabinet's decision establishing the National Committee for Women, Children, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Affairs, in addition to continuing to develop and reform the legislative system aimed at protecting and promoting human rights in Qatar.

In addition, the Qatari cooperative partnership with all United Nations agencies places the State of Qatar at the forefront of countries supporting the rule of law, international charters and norms, supporting preventive diplomacy, abstaining from threats or use of force or interference in internal affairs of other countries, cooperation between states and equal sovereignty among them, as a main method to achieve security, peace and stability at the regional and international levels.

Among the most prominent points that will contribute to achieving SDG10:

- Identifying and articulating national-level challenges on reducing inequalities,
- Identifying national-level opportunities aimed to achieve the reduction of inequalities.
- Creating a good systematic database to measure social protection and statistics on human rights.

Sources

1.<http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/QA> 2.http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr_2020_overview_arabic.pdf

3.http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/QAT.pdf





12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12:

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Consumption and production activities are the basis of the global economy, but unsustainable consumption and production patterns are a major cause of climate change, land degradation, resource depletion, and air and water pollution. Thus, the inclusion of Goal 12 within the Sustainable Development Goals is a recognition of the fundamental and comprehensive role of sustainable consumption and production in sustainable development, to improve human well-being, including the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, and to respond to the challenge of the earth carrying capacity to meet the growing needs of the population and increasing rate of urbanization that result in intensive use of resources. SDG12 includes 11 targets and 13 indicators, in addition to other cross-cutting targets with other SDGs that focus on food, education, water, energy, economy, cities, oceans and economic development. There are an estimated 22 targets and 28 indicators related to sustainable consumption and production within the framework of the SDGs.¹

Sustainable consumption and production refer to doing more in a better quality while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials, as well as reducing the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations. In order to implement sustainable consumption and production, the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) was adopted at the Rio+20 Conference. The 10YFP is a global framework for action to enhance international cooperation and accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns in both developed and developing countries.² SDG 12 covers:

- The need for policies for SCP is underlined through the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) (target 12.1)
- Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. Target (12.2)
- Shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns in food system. Target (12.3)

(1) Assessing Arab Regional Progress in Sustainable Consumption and Production: The Preparatory Meeting of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development and the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on Environmental and Natural Resources Issues 11 and 12 April 2018.

(2) Norwegian Ministry of Environment, Oslo Symposium on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns 1994; This has become the widely accepted definition of sustainable consumption and production.

- Environmentally sound management of pollutants and chemicals. Target (12.4)
- Reduction of waste generation. Target (12.5)
- Engaging all actors in order to contribute to sustainable development, including the private sector. Target (12.6)
- Promoting the role of the public sector through sustainable public procurement practices. Target (12.7)
- The importance of raising awareness and providing information to consumers to achieve sustainable development and lifestyle. Target (12.8)
- Supporting developing countries through financing and capacity-building, as means of implementation. Target (12-a)
- The role of tourism sector and sustainable tourism. Target (12-b)
- Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption. Target (12-c).

The State of Qatar has paid great attention to the shift towards sustainable production and consumption patterns, and reflected this in its strategic plans, which included many goals, initiatives and projects, aiming at rationalizing energy, water, electricity and food consumption and reducing the production of pollutants and waste, as Table No. 12.1 illustrates:³

Table (12.1) SDG12 targets included in The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022

Relevant NDS-2 Goals	SDG 12: Sustainable Production & Consumption										
	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.8	12.a	12.b	12.c
1. Provide the required data on the Qatari environment to promote and improve environmental management by 2022.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
2. Build an environmentally aware and supportive society for environmental sustainability		✓		✓				✓			
3. Fix the domestic waste generation rate under 1.6 kg per capita/day during the period 2018-2022			✓					✓			
4. Recycle 15% of the solid waste generated by the end of 2022			✓	✓	✓						
5. Conserve and develop water resources by 2022 by reducing the total (actual + administrative) losses of drinking water and reducing the per capita water consumption by 15% through the national program "Tarsheed"		✓									
6. Minimize groundwater depletion and develop the groundwater aquifer by 2020		✓									
7. Promote integrated water and electricity management by the end of 2022 and reduce the per capita electricity consumption by 8% through Tarsheed Programme		✓						✓			
8. Increase the self-sufficiency ratio of fish stocks to 65% through advanced fish farms by 2022		✓									
9. Achieve self-sufficiency rate of 30% of animal production through a sustainable management of the animal production system by 2022		✓									
10. Increase investment in order to maximize hydrocarbon reserves in the Qatari fields and discover new fields by 2022		✓									

(3) Qatar NDS-2 (2018-2022)

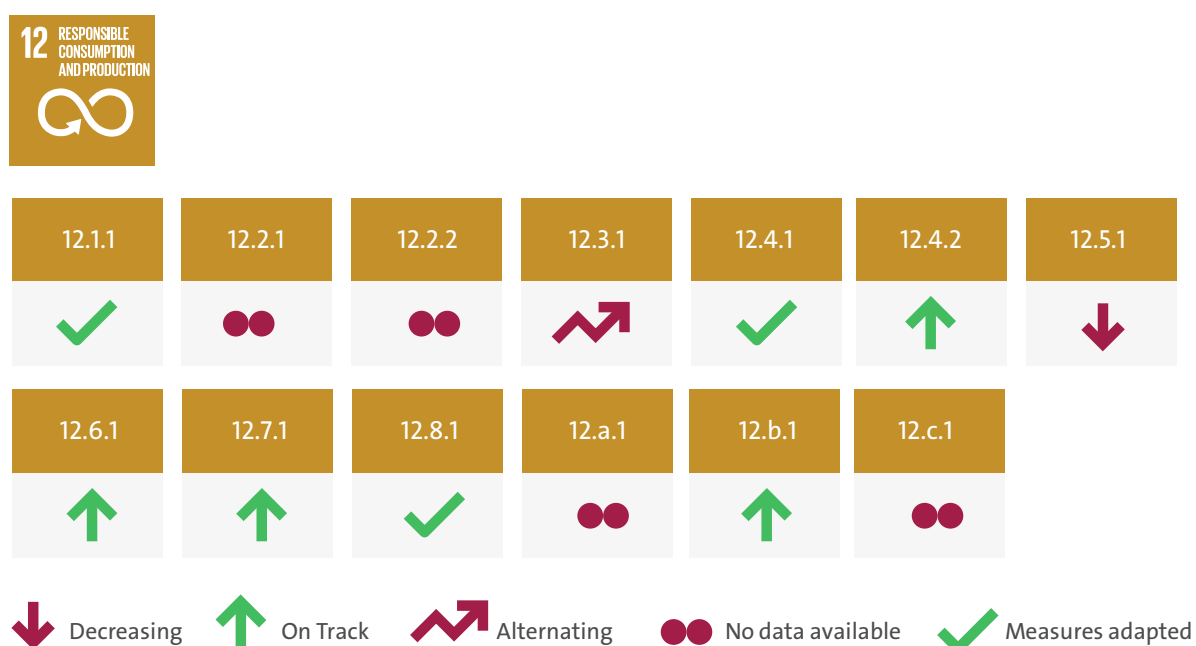
11. : Use available non-allocated primary hydrocarbon materials in an efficient and profitable manner to expand the petrochemical industry, taking into account Qatar's strategic priorities by 2022	✓											
12. : Increase the proportion of recycled materials in projects to 20% of the total materials used by 2022				✓								
13. Enhance Environmental Health Risks monitoring and regulation			✓				✓					
14. Establish an integrated management strategy of water and accompanying contaminants in industrial zones by 2022	✓		✓									
15. Provide infrastructure to use 70% of the TSE produced in different projects by 2022	✓		✓									
16. Provide data on new and renewable energy by 2021							✓					
17. Enhance the efficiency of existing refining and petrochemicals companies by 2022					✓							
"18. : Improve and implement energy efficiency by 10% and utilize existing Gulf connectivity network infrastructure by 2022"	✓											
19. Increase the production capacities of power stations and improve the production and use of renewable energy to meet the increasing demand for electricity to reach a production of 200 megawatt of renewable energy by 2020 to be increased to 500 megawatt afterwards	✓											
20. Identify the components of the energy mix for power supply security in Qatar by 2020	✓											
21. Promote Qatar Petroleum participation in the oil and gas projects involving global oil companies at the end of their current deadline by 2022					✓							
22. Upgrade all oil and gas operations to maximize operational efficiency and reduce costs by 2022	✓		✓	✓								
23. Strengthen the leadership role of the Ministry of Public Health in health protection			✓									
24. Enhance and strengthen surveillance and data management systems for health protection			✓									
25. Reduce loss of drinking water rate (actual + administrative) to 8% by 2022	✓											
	✓	Explicitly interlinked				✓	Implicitly interlinked					

Progress Achieved

Figure No. (12.1) shows an overview of the progress made in SDG 12 by presenting a trend dashboard of the 13 indicators, used to measure the progress of the 11 targets of SDG12. As for the indicators (12.1.1; 12.4.1; 12.8.1), they are already in place in the State of Qatar through national frameworks including policies, agreements or laws. As for the indicators (12.4.2; 12.6.1; 12.7.1; 12.b.1), the available data until 2019 showed that they are in the right direction to achieve the targeted values. As for the indicator 12.3.1, data indicated that the trend of the progress was swinging, while data were not available on four indicators, namely (12.2.1; 12.2.2; 12.a.1; 12.c.1)⁴

(4) <https://hukoomi.gov.qa/ar/about-qatar/sustainable-development-goals#Responsible-Consumption>

Figure (12.1) SDG 12 Indicators Dashboard



Source: Planning and Statistics Authority - Sustainable Development Indicators Report 2019

Steps Forward

SDG 12 occupies a special place in the State of Qatar due to the peculiarity of the production base in the Qatari economy, as the oil sector still accounts for approximately 49% of the GDP, about 89% of total merchandise exports, and about 94% of the state's total revenue. In this context, Chapter One of the Second National Development Strategy has been to develop the economic infrastructure and encourage private investment by providing appropriate conditions and basic services for these sectors for growth, establishing industrial and service areas, supporting and developing small and medium-sized enterprises and increasing their contribution to the diversification of the production base.⁵

At the same time, Qatar is striving to raise awareness of responsible consumption, which goes hand in hand with diversification of production to overcome the challenges it faces in terms of limited resources, rapid rate of population growth and the resulting large urbanization and the increase in economic activities. In this regard, the "Tarsheed" campaign and program launched by the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (KAHRAMAA), is a good example of sustainable awareness work, which aims to promote a culture of consumption rationalization and responsible consumption, as the national program seeks to entrench it socially over time, in order to become an integral part of our lives, all the way towards building a balanced consumption pattern in Qatar. In this context, KAHRAMAA Awareness Park (KAP) was opened within the National Campaign for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development Education. The park includes several facilities such as a versatile hall to screen documentaries on energy rationalization, awareness-raising processes, and energy conservation simulation processes, as well as specialized tools to raise awareness of energy efficiency and rationalization, among others. This year, the program launched a new national initiative aimed at reducing electricity and water consumption in the residential sector by 5%.⁶

The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 includes many goals and initiatives that promote the achievement of SDG 12 to ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns, especially in the areas of food, energy, water and waste management. In the area of food security,

(5) KAHRAMAA

(6) NDS-2 (2018-2022) + KAHRAMAA

the strategy aims to develop an integrated plan for agricultural services by 2022, which includes increasing the self-sufficiency ratio of fish stocks to 65% and animal production to 30%. The State of Qatar has made great achievements in the field of food security and self-sufficiency as a result of implementing many national strategic projects. In 2019, the State of Qatar was ranked first among the Arab countries in terms of indicators for achieving food security, and globally it jumped from 22nd place in 2018 to 13th place in 2019, according to the World Food Security Index issued in December 2019.⁷

Furthermore, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry plays an active role in facilitating timely access to market information and strategic stocks of food to ensure that price fluctuation is reduced by using a national strategic inventory management and control system to manage and control the strategic stock of food and consumer goods. The electronic system aims at partnership between government and private sector such as the General Authority of Customs, suppliers and major outlets as well as local producers and manufacturers. The national strategic inventory management and control system is flexible and adaptable to various developments, emergency circumstances, disasters and epidemics, such as COVID-19.⁸

In the field of energy, the Second National Development Strategy aims to improve and increase the energy efficiency by 10% by 2022, as well as increase the production capacity of power stations and improve the production and use of renewable energy to reach a production of 200 megawatts by 2020 to be increased to 500 megawatts afterwards, and reduce the rate of per capita consumption of electricity by a percentage of 8%. In the field of water consumption and management, NDS aims to reduce the loss of drinking water rate to 8% by 2022, minimize groundwater depletion and develop the groundwater aquifer by 2020, provide infrastructure to use 70% of the TSE produced in different projects, and reduce per capita water consumption by 15%.¹⁰

In the field of waste management, the solid waste management was classified as one of grand challenges for the State of Qatar being one of the fastest growing economies in the world, which resulted in high rates of population growth, urbanization, industrial growth, and economic expansion. In this context, the State of Qatar adopted a comprehensive plan for solid waste management and its recycling, which resulted in the establishment of the Domestic Solid Waste Management Center located in Mesaieed, which is Middle East's first fully integrated Solid Waste Management Facility. In 2020, the Center produced more than 30,000 tonnes of organic fertilizer and generated about 269 thousand megawatts/hour of electric power, and more than 33 million cubic meters of biogas, in addition to processing more than 30 thousand tonnes of car tires in each of the Umm Al Afai landfill and Rawdat Rashid landfill, as well as recycling about (420) thousand tonnes of construction waste. Qatar Petroleum has shipped approximately 1,500 barrels of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) waste from Halul Island and 87 drums of NORM waste from Ras Laffan to a specialist facility in the UK for processing and treatment. The strategic plan of Qatar National Water and Electricity Company aims at recycling or reusing 100% of the generated waste.¹³

NDS-2 (2018-2022) aims at increasing the proportion of recycled materials in projects to 20% of the total materials used, recycling 15% of solid waste generated by the end of 2022, and keeping the domestic waste generation rate under 1.6 kg per capita/day during the period 2018-2022. In that regard the State of Qatar has succeeded in keeping this percentage under 1.6 kg per capita/day as indicated by the data between 2013 and 2019 and shown in Figure (12.2):¹⁴

(7) (© The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited 2019, GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY INDEX 2019)

(8) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

(9) NDS-2 (2018-2022)

(10) NDS-2 (2018-2022)

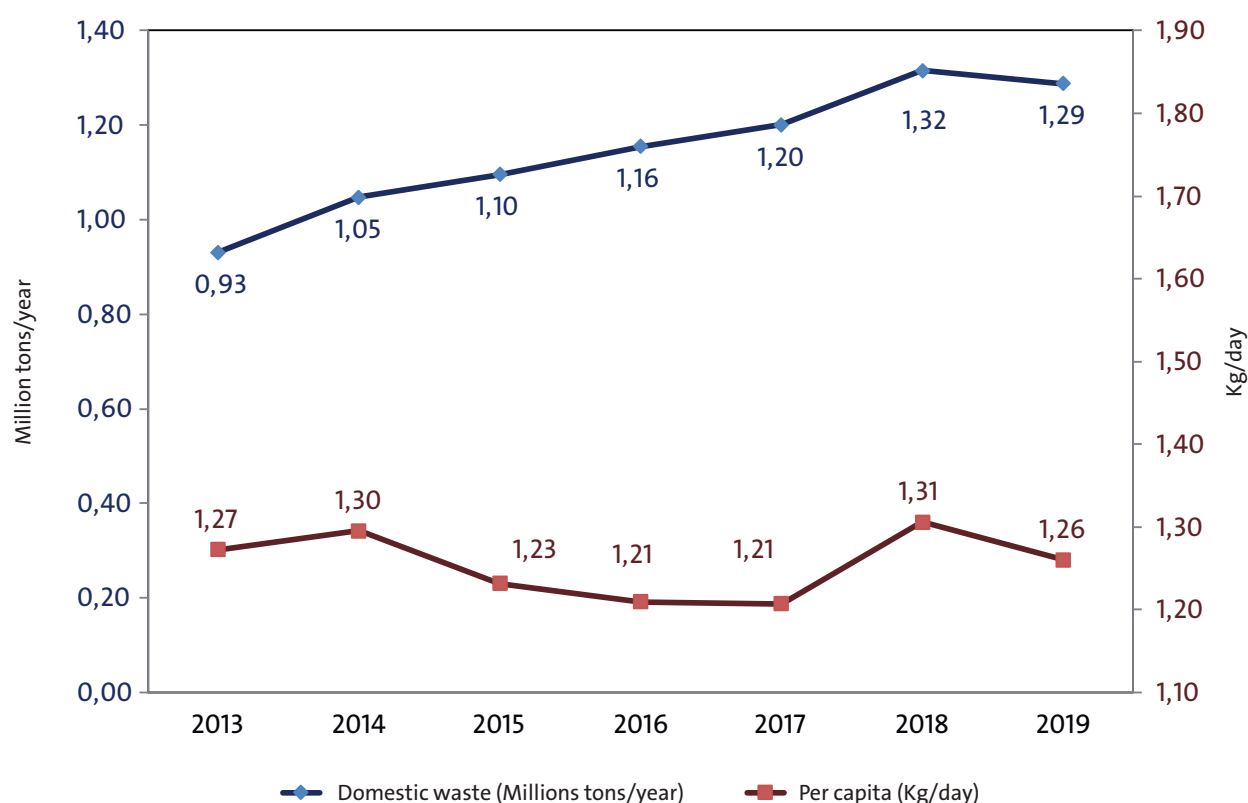
(11) The electronic page of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment

(12) QP

(13) KAHRAMMA

(14) Ministry of Municipality and Environment (Solid Waste Management) and Planning and Statistics Authority publications.

Figure (12.2) Total annual quantities and per capita household waste in the State of Qatar



Source: Ministry of Municipalities and Environment
(Recycling and waste treatment department) & publications of Planning and Statistics Authority

FIFA World Cup 2022

The State of Qatar is determined to host the FIFA World Cup 2022 in a way that guarantees sustainable production and consumption through adapting a set of planned initiatives over the stages before, during and after the World Cup. This includes the efficient use of natural resources, and the use of sustainable solutions and technologies in the fields of energy, water, food and waste, to leave a legacy and practical experience that stimulate environmental sustainability not only in Qatar and the region, but also the entire world.

In the context of Qatar's pledge to host one of the best environmentally friendly FIFA World Cup 2022, the state of Qatar targets the most eco-friendly materials across the whole life cycle, starting with adopting the principle of sustainable procurement, driven by the ethical sourcing of green building materials, so as to maximize resource efficiency and reduce emissions, waste and negative impacts on human health and biodiversity. This includes giving priority to materials that are either free of or having low toxic substances that may affect human health, materials with recycled contents and of lower carbon emissions factor, and materials that can be reused or recycled during the dismantling phase, and then during the construction phase where the target is waste recycling rather than landfilling of construction and demolition waste. Therefore, in some projects the recycling rate could reach 90%. Finally, in the events stage, the target of waste management plan is to reduce waste from the source, reuse and recycle the generated wastes.¹⁵

(15) Sustainability Strategy for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022



Qatar Foundation

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development works to find innovative solutions and directs its efforts - through its research centers and educational institutions - to enhance ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns based on scientific research, development and innovation. It has established higher education programs into sustainable development in Hamad Bin Khalifa University focusing on energy and environment issues, and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI). This is in addition to launching initiatives that instil the concept of sustainability in the community, such as establishing of Qatar Foundation Nursery to produce vegetables; using the sludge from wastewater treatment plants as a natural fertilizer for afforestation in cooperation with Ashghal; desalination of water using solar energy; and adopting green cleaning practices using reusable microfibre cloths for cleaning to reduce landfill waste.¹⁶

Shift Towards Green Buildings

In the context of promoting green development and in line with the role of Qatar National Vision 2030 to transform Qatar from depleted natural resources based economy such as oil and gas to a knowledge-based economy, Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), affiliated to its Qatar Foundation, was established in 2009 to rally and involve all sectors, stakeholders and the local community to support the green environmental issues and shift towards green buildings. Examples of green buildings initiatives include the Qatar National Convention Center, obtained the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) gold-certification, which was designed in a way that takes into account the standards of sustainability and environmental preservation. Other examples include Msheireb City and Lusail City, where all buildings are eco-friendly. Overall, Qatar ranks second in terms of the share of green and eco-friendly buildings in the Middle East and North Africa¹⁷.

(16) Qatar Foundation

(17) Qatar Green Building Council

Challenges

- Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns in light of the increasing rate of population, which occurs simultaneously with the economic and construction boom that the country is witnessing and the consequent increase in demand for natural resources and economic activities.
- Effective communication with stakeholders to provide information / data, build the credibility of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Program and ensure that stakeholders are committed to the implementation process.
- How to measure the achieved progress in the absence of sufficient data, needed to measure the indicators of SDG12 and to determine the baseline.
- Being highly dependent on resources extraction, as Qatar has the world's third largest natural gas reserves, it makes it even more difficult to decouple resource extraction from economic growth, especially when the global demand on natural resources is growing.

Opportunities

- Engaging the private sector, civil society organizations, financial institutions and other stakeholders in Qatar to contribute to the implementation of the goals and objectives related to sustainable consumption and production.
- Enhancing the exchange of experiences with other countries and benefiting from regional experiences in integrating and implementing the goals and objectives related to sustainable consumption and production, and as part of the framework of monitoring and following -up on the implementation of The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- The use of a wide range of different communication mechanisms, such as seminars, workshops, brochures, booklets, television, radio, web pages and databases, and the smart use of public media to reach out the vast majority of the society and raise awareness about the programs of sustainable consumption and production.
- Strengthening capacities and knowledge on sustainable consumption and production across the implementing agencies through training, guidance, research, application of tools of sustainable consumption and production policy, and issuance of relevant legislation.
- Shifting from the linear economy model which traditionally follows the “take-make -use - dispose” approach, leading to the depletion of natural resources and the generation of waste and emissions to the circular economy model that aims at eliminating waste and the continuous use of resources. Circular systems employ reuse, sharing, repair, refurbishment, re-manufacturing and recycling to create a closed-loop system, minimizing the use of resource inputs and the creation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions.





13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13:

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SDG13 comes in response to combating climate change; the most urgent environmental challenge, as confronting such challenge is considered the most decisive issue of our time. It aims to take urgent actions to save our planet from climate change, and to further accelerate ambitious climate action by addressing the global large-scale impacts. Such impacts include shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, as well as extreme weather events that are considered the greatest threat to global health, as a result of extreme heat, infectious disease outbreaks, malnutrition, and an increase in non-communicable diseases caused by environmental pollution. It also stresses curbing greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for global warming, which have reached unprecedented record high without showing any sign of abating. SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change” includes 5 targets and 8 indicators that intersect with most of the other SDGs, especially SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 12, SDG 14, SDG 15.

In line with its National Vision 2030, the State of Qatar has paid great attention to address the phenomenon of climate change, which was reflected in its first and second strategic plans to implement this vision. The Second National Development Strategy targets a less climate-sensitive environment. Therefore, the strategy targets developing and implementing a national plan for adaptation and mitigation of climate change impact and promote local, regional and international strategic partnerships. At the same time, Qatar has started some initiatives including a renewable energy program has been developed targeting the production of 200 megawatts of renewable energy by 2020 to be increased to 500 megawatts afterwards, improving energy efficiency by 10% and identifying the components of the energy mix for energy security 2020.

Table (13.1) summarizes the targets of SDG 13 that are included in the objectives of NDS-2 (2018-2022), whether explicitly (indicated in dark green) or implicitly (indicated in light green)¹⁸:

(18) NDS-2 (2018-2022)

Table (13.1) Alignment of SDG13 targets with The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022

Relevant NDS-2 Goals		SDG 13: Climate Change				
		13.1	13.2	13.3	13.a	13.b
1	Increase the proportion of recycled materials in projects to 20% of the total materials used by 2022	√	√			
2	Provide infrastructure to use 70% of the TSE produced in different projects by 2022	√	√			
3	Establish an integrated management of water and of accompanying contaminants in industrial zones by 2022	√	√			
4	"Improve and implement energy efficiency by 10% and utilize existing Gulf connectivity network infrastructure by 2022"	√	√			
5	Increase the production capacities of power stations and improve the production and use of renewable energy to meet the increasing demand for electricity to reach a production of 200 megawatt of renewable energy by 2020 to be increased to 500 megawatts afterwards	√	√			
6	Continue the implementation of Phase I of the Doha Metro and start operations by 2020	√	√			
7	Identify the components of the energy mix for power supply security in Qatar by 2020	√	√			
8	Conserve and develop water resources by 2022 by reducing the total (actual + administrative) losses of drinking water and reducing per capita water consumption by 15% through the national program "Tarsheed"	√	√	√		
9	Promote integrated water and electricity management by the end of 2022 and reduce per capita electricity consumption by 8% through Tarsheed Programme	√	√	√		
10	Provide data on new and renewable energy by 2021	√	√			
11	Upgrade all oil and gas operations to maximize operational efficiency and reduce costs by 2022	√	√			
12	Reduce the levels of air pollutants in accordance with Qatar's ambient air quality standards by 2022	√	√			
13	Recycle 15% of the solid waste generated by the end of 2022	√	√			
14	Fix the domestic waste generation rate under 1.6 kg per capita/day during the period 2018-2022	√	√			



Explicitly interlinked



Implicitly interlinked

Progress Achieved

Figure (13.1) shows an overview of the progress made in achieving the goal through the SDG 13 indicators dashboard, which measure the progress of each of the five targets. Regarding indicator (13.1.1), Qatar recorded zero cases of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 in the years 2016-2019, so the percentage of achievement of the indicator is (100%). As for indicator (13.1.3), “the proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies”, it has reached 100%, and thus the percentage of achieving this indicator is also 100%.¹⁹

Figure (13.1) SDG 13 Dashboard



Source: Planning and Statistics Authority - Sustainable Development Indicators Report 2019

As for the other indicators, the statistical data indicate that measures have been adopted in the State of Qatar. Such indicators include Indicator 13.1.2 on the number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; Indicator 13.3.1 on integrating measures to mitigate climate change in education curricula; and Indicator 13.a.1 as the State of Qatar is committed to its financial pledges with the aim of jointly mobilizing an amount of \$ 100 billion annually by the year 2020, as well as Indicator 13.b.1 as the State of Qatar works to support small island developing states and least developed countries in achieving the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement along with the realization of long-term benefits of such efforts. As for indicator 13.2.2 on total greenhouse emissions per year, there are no updated data and work is underway to measure them.

Steps Forward

The State of Qatar has paid great attention to environmental affairs and addressing the phenomenon of climate change. Qatar was one of the first countries to join the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1996, the Kyoto Protocol in 2005, and the Paris Agreement in 2016, which ratified in 2017. In 2012, Qatar hosted the 18th Conference of Parties on Climate Change, COP18, which is considered one of the milestones of the global climate change negotiations that contributed and lead to the Paris Agreement. The State of Qatar plays a strong and effective role at all regional and international levels to combat the climate change and adopt the mitigation measures by implementing several projects and initiatives that contribute to the efforts of reducing air pollutants and carbon dioxide emissions, and increase reliance on renewable energy sources.

One of Qatar’s most prominent efforts in the field of climate change is the project of using compressed natural gas (CNG) as a fuel in the transport sector. It aims to develop CNG as an alternative fuel not only locally but also internationally through its export to many countries of the world, which contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions significantly locally and globally,

(19) Planning and Statistics Authority: Summary of Qatar’s Sustainable Development Goals (2019).

which it helps in achieving SDGs globally. Qatar has implemented major projects that contribute to addressing the phenomenon of climate change, the most prominent of which are:

1. Hamad International Airport (HIA) is the first airport in the region to achieve the Level 3 'Optimization' status in the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Carbon Accreditation program. HIA earned the level 3 accreditation in recognition of their exemplary work in measuring the CO₂ emissions in the airport, adopting a program for energy reduction, and engaging relevant stakeholders to measure and manage the airport emissions.
2. The project of carbon capture and storage to enhance oil recovery and avoid releasing it to the environment.
3. The launch of the electric vehicles project to promote sustainable transport in the country and help achieve integration with the Doha Metro project, as part of efforts to reduce air pollutants emitted from transportation.
4. Design and build the infrastructure at Hamad Port, one of the largest ports in the Middle East, in a way that it copes with the effects of climate change, such as projected sea level rise (according to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates and climatic conditions). In this regard, the rocks resulted from the port's drilling have been re-used to raise the ground level of the future harbors, thus ensuring the port's resilience against the future sea level rise.
5. The project of gas flaring reduction from 0.023 billion cubic meters per million tonnes of energy produced in 2008 to 0.007 billion cubic meters per million tonnes in 2012.
6. The project of gas recovery, an environmental project designed to eliminate flaring at liquidized natural gas (LNG) terminals. It is based on the collection of the LNG boil-off gas from the LNG carriers and the transfer of this gas to a Central Compression Area where the gas is compressed and sent to the LNG trains for use as fuel gas or for conversion into LNG. This results in greenhouse gases (GHGs) savings of approximately 2.5 million tonnes of CO₂, contributing in the mitigation of global warming.
7. The inauguration of Umm Al Houl Power Plant, the largest power plant in the Middle East, which has high production efficiency, uses the best environmentally friendly technologies in the field of water desalination, and the clean energy of natural gas fuel to reduce emissions.
8. The one million trees initiative, launched by the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, is a social initiative aims at strengthening the environmental sustainability by mitigating the climate change through reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases and improving the air quality.²⁰

Qatar Petroleum

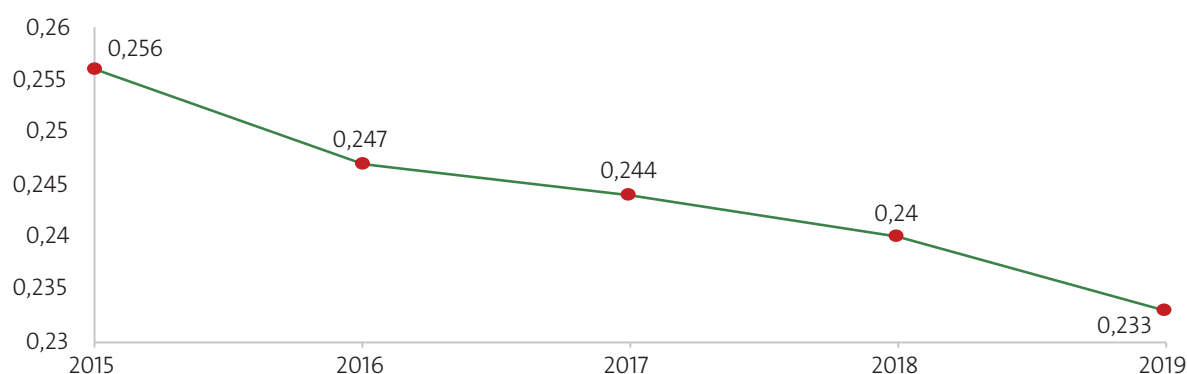
Energy production and consumption are the largest sources of global greenhouse gas emissions, with the energy sector accounting for nearly two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions, nearly 60% of which is attributed to oil and coal combined. Qatar Petroleum is the main engine for growth and prosperity in Qatar, and as one of the largest natural gas producers in the world, it plays a critical role in climate change mitigation at the local and global levels, and bringing about profound changes within energy systems to accelerate decarbonization from this sector by adopting climate change mitigation plans that are consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement, and provide valuable support to global ambitions to achieve net zero emissions.

(20) IEA World Energy Outlook 2019, Table 1.1

Qatar Petroleum has adopted a climate framework that includes 4 elements: (1) consolidating its leading position in supplying LNG across the globe by increasing the production capacity to 126 million tonnes per year, (2) curbing greenhouse gas emissions through flare reduction, methane emissions reduction and energy efficiency, (3) creating low carbon energy by growing renewable energy capacity, i.e. solar projects, by 2-4 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, and (4) compensating for residual emissions by deploying carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology.²¹

In regards of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from upstream (the extraction stage), Qatar Petroleum is committed to cut GHG emissions intensity by 15% by 2030. Between 2015 and 2019, Qatar Petroleum has succeeded to reduce emissions by 9%, which is equivalent to a reduction of 23,000 tonnes of emissions per million tonnes of hydrocarbon production, as shown in Figure 13.2:

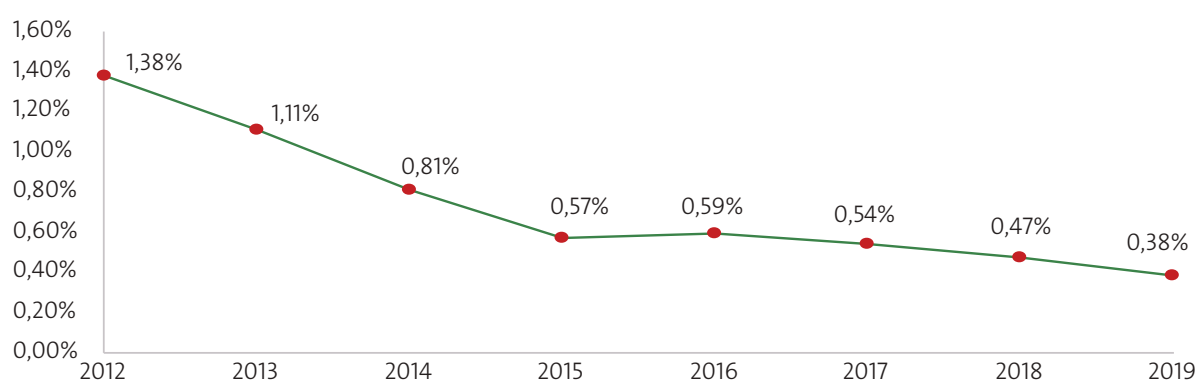
Figure (13.2) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 9% between 2015 and 2019



Source: QP 2019 Sustainability Report

In the same context, QP has adopted plans to cut emissions by 25% from LNG facilities by 2030, targeting 0.2 wt.% methane emissions across all facilities by 2025. With regards to gas flaring reduction from all upstream facilities, QP adopted a reduction plan to more than 75%. The company has managed to cut gas flaring rate from 1.38 in 2012 to 0.38 in 2019, equivalent to 72.5%, as shown in Figure (13.2):

Figure (13.2) Reducing the flaring rate by 72.5% between 2012-2019



Source: QP 2019 Sustainability Report

In terms of reducing methane emissions, in March 2018, Qatar Petroleum became the first company in the Middle East to sign the Methane Guiding Principles (MGP) initiative, which is a set of guiding principles on reducing methane emissions across the natural gas value chain. In 2019, QP launched the methane focused smart leak detection and repair program (LDAR) in all upstream and downstream facilities, using advanced optical gas imaging (OGI) camera technology to survey

(21) Qatar Petroleum Sustainability Report 2019.

and detect the leaks quickly and efficiently in accordance with international standards. In the same context and to help achieve global climate goals, Qatar Petroleum joined the second phase of the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0, a partnership launched by the United Nations Environment Program with support from the European Commission, to accelerate reductions in methane emissions worldwide through improved monitoring and reporting these emissions with a much higher level of transparency. In line with that, Qatar Petroleum sponsored two courses as part of the global awareness program of the methane gas guidelines.²²

Furthermore, QP has launched several other initiatives that will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as the Siraj venture, through which QP has committed to an ambitious solar plant project, which is currently under construction and will employ photovoltaic (PV) solar technology to generate 800MW of electricity near Al Kharsaa, Qatar. The total capacity will be implemented over two phases – with Phase 1 delivering 400MW in 2021 and Phase 2 scheduled for completion a year later. Additional PV solar capacity of two 400MW plants at QP industrial cities is currently in the planning stage and to be operating before 2025.

Qatar Petroleum is actively pursuing to replace its current used fuel for ships with LNG, which will significantly reduce QP's total shipping emissions in the LNG value chain by around 28%; approximately equivalent to 1.9 million tonnes of CO₂ per year. Other initiatives launched by Qatar Petroleum will further contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector in Qatar, such as the use of compressed natural gas for vehicles in industrial cities.²³

In 2014, Qatar Petroleum inaugurated the world's largest Jetty Boil-off Gas Recovery (JBOG) facility at Ras Laffan to recover boiled-off gas during LNG loading. The facility reduces CO₂ emissions by approximately 1.6 million tonnes per annum, equivalent to the emissions of 175,000 cars. To date, JBOG recovered about 2.3 million tonnes of gas since inception.

In the field of carbon capture and sequestration, in 2019 Qatar Petroleum commissioned the largest CO₂ recovery and sequestration facility in the MENA region with a capacity of 2.1 million tonnes per annum of CO₂. The facility aims to capture CO₂ emissions and pump them into tanks to enhance oil recovery, rather than releasing it to the environment. CO₂ recovery projects aim to reach 7 million tonnes annually by 2030, as the project succeeded in pumping ~1.2 million tonnes of CO₂ into the reservoir by the end of 2019.

Qatar Foundation

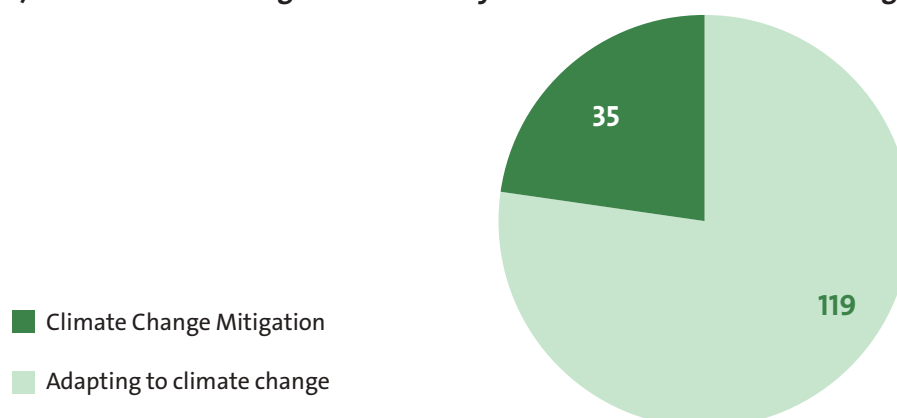
Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development actively contributes to the transition to a green economy and knowledge-based economy through its research centers, including the establishment of the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) to be a pioneer in Qatar in the fields of environment and energy. It provides academic research programs in the field of sustainable energy and sustainable environment. This is in addition to the ongoing awareness programs and activities in the field of sustainability and renewable energy, such as Qatar Sustainability Week. Qatar Foundation developed Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Strategy (QRDI) that outlined five areas of national priority, including the challenge of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and switching to renewable energy. Besides, Qatar Foundation funds a lot of research projects in the field of climate change through the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), where the number of projects reached 154 research projects distributed as per Figure (13.3):²⁴

(22) QP

(23) QP

(24) Qatar Foundation

Figure (13.3) No. of Research Programs Funded by QF in the area of Climate Change (2017-present)



FIFA World Cup 2020

The State of Qatar pledges to host one of the best eco-friendly World Cups ever, as it will introduce the most compact world cup in history, which enables fans to watch more than one match per day, with the 8 stadiums are all within just a 31-mile radius of the capital, Doha. Qatar promises the first “carbon neutral” world cup in 2022. In addition to that, Qatar is planning to use a range of environmentally friendly innovations, such as the showcasing of pavements that generate electricity and seating made out of recycled palm branches. At the end of the tournament, Qatar pledges to rebuild these stadiums in developing countries. Qatar also inaugurated the Tree Nursery of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy’s (SC), which has committed to planting 1.2 million square meters of grass annually – or around 168 football pitches of grass a year - to make the surrounding spaces around the stadiums comfortable and more attractive to fans. The SC Tree Nursery will produce at least 5,000 trees using treated sewage water, which will be planted in the spaces around the stadiums and rehabilitation places. This will help absorb thousands of tonnes of carbon annually.²⁵

In order to mitigate the adverse environmental impact resulting from the construction of stadiums and during the World Cup, the State of Qatar has taken proactive steps by integrating best sustainability practices into the design and construction of stadiums, leading to lower resource depletion, minimization of any negative ecological footprint, protection of biodiversity, and development of operating plans that ensure the rational management of energy and waste.²⁶

Challenges

The greatest challenge facing Qatar with regard to climate change is how to maintain economic development and social prosperity in a carbon-constrained world in the future, given that the Qatari economy is heavily dependent on oil and gas production, and to keep a balance with the ultimate goal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that is to complete the phase-out disposal of a carbon-based fuel source in favour of renewable energy benefits.

- How will Qatar deal with the rise of renewable energy sources and their impact on the fossil fuel market?
- How will Qatar achieve economic diversification in the circumstances of harsh environment, scarcity of freshwater resources and almost complete reliance on desalination, in which economic diversification becomes critical.
- Sea Level Rise (SLR): Qatar is one of three countries in the Gulf (along with Bahrain and Kuwait) and among the 10 countries in the world that will be affected by SLR.

(25) FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Sustainability Strategy – Executive Summary

(26) FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Sustainability Strategy



Future opportunities and plans

To move forward in transforming the economic system in Qatar from oil and gas -based economy to a Knowledge-based economy. This goal was included in the Qatar National Vision 2030 and NDS-2 (2018-2022), which adopted a plan for a more competitive, productive and diversified economy and a more dynamic private sector with greater contribution to the national economy. In this context, the Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council was established in 2018 with a view to place Qatar in a suitable position to diversify its economy and shift from an oil-based economy to a Knowledge-based economy. This shall be achieved by opening new economic horizons based on research, development and innovation, while expanding the participation of citizens and competencies in this transformation. Thus, Qatar realizes that it has to consolidate its position on the map of the new global economy and not to lag behind.²⁷

Rather than competing source, renewables should be seen as complementary sources of energy in Qatar, taking into account the challenges facing renewable energy and the important and continuous role of natural gas in meeting energy demand for applications that cannot be powered by renewable sources due to considerations such as location, energy density or efficiency. This is in addition to other applications where natural gas plays a central role in heating and transportation.²⁸

Similarities between the Gulf states in terms of economic structure, natural resources and climatic conditions represent an opportunity for regional cooperation and joint action to address the impacts of climate change. Although the Gulf states are making progress in climate-related research and development and actively participating in international climate change negotiations in a constructive manner, they still need to enhance intergovernmental cooperation on climate policies.

(27) Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation Strategy (2018)

(28) Qatar Petroleum Sustainability Report 2019





16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



SDG 16:

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Target	(Selected) National Indicators	Direction
16.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population.	...
	Conflict-related deaths	...
	Physical and sexual violence against women	X
	Perceived problems with neighborhood crime, vandalism, or violence	...
16.5	Reducing corruption and eliminating bribery paid to public officials	✓
16.6	Confidence in the political system	X
16.9	Birth registration	✓
16.10	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms	✓

✓ Applicable; ... cases not found; X not available

This SDG affirms the relationship between peace, security, good governance, social inclusion and the achievement of justice. There is also a close link between the principles of SDG 16 and the provision of a stable environment. Stability is an influencing factor and a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the SDGs.

In this regard, NDS-2 (2018-2022)¹, when addressing the society's structure, emphasized the need to "establish a secure and stable society operating on the principles of justice, equality and the rule of law." This official interest was evident in the development of the Security & Public Safety Sectoral Strategy within NDS-2. The main target to be achieved by the end of 2022 has been defined as "achieving security and stability and maintaining the desired main outcome on public safety". It is a strategy that stresses the necessity of investing in institutions, policies, systems and people to enable the state to manage the development process in a forward-looking path.

(1) Planning and Statistics Authority - NDS-2 (2018-2022) p. 232, 2019.

Qatar National Vision 2030 also emphasized the need to “develop a spirit of tolerance, constructive dialogue and openness towards other cultures in line with its Arab and Islamic identity.” In seeking to achieve the goals of QNV 2030, the NDS-2 aims to improve the lives of all citizens and people living in Qatar through legislative changes, policy reforms and ambitious programs that will sustain economic prosperity and promote social development. All measures taken also aim to protect and secure the human rights of all citizens and residents in all sectors.

On the other hand, the State of Qatar seeks to promote rapprochement among civilizations, to reduce tensions among followers of monotheistic religions, cultures, and civilizations, through a plan based on integrating the UNAOC issues into its educational curricula and intensifying meetings between representatives of religions, intellectual elites and youth, as well as the effective role of the Qatari media in correcting stereotypes of peoples and civilizations.

Although the State of Qatar has made significant strides in building and strengthening institutions that ensure peace and justice inside and outside the country, there are still some challenges related to the components of social justice that need to be faced, especially with regard to some types of inequality that contribute to undermining this social justice as an integral part of SDGs. For example, gender gaps in economic opportunities and political participation persist, and this is mostly due to the absence of equity regarding the distribution of equal opportunities in order for all groups of society to benefit from the social, economic and political advantages. All SDGs stresses the inclusion of all societal groups in the development process and placing the principle of justice at its core.

The Constitution of the State of Qatar provides for equality between men and women in rights and duties, however, discrimination between them in terms of granting nationality to the spouse and children remains the most critical challenge to the realization of this right, according to the 15th annual report issued by the National Human Rights Committee in the State of Qatar.² This is in addition to the issuance of legislation that contradicted international human rights standards, including the Law on Settlement of Administrative Disputes, which emphasized the immunity of certain administrative decisions from judicial review.³

Highlights

The State of Qatar has embarked on a series of fundamental reforms indicating a trend towards strengthening peace and safety, building effective and accountable institutions and setting up mechanisms to ensure access to justice for all through the issuance of many legislations and laws, considering that developing legislation to keep pace with various developments contributes to the success of the NDS-2 (2018 -2022)⁴, and in achieving sound social development by extending security and public safety.

For instance, in the context of dealing with COVID-19 pandemic, Qatar has made great efforts for a sustainable and flexible recovery from the effects of the pandemic by quickly dealing with the crisis. It organized the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management (Cabinet Resolution No. (4) of 2020), taking a series of targeted measures, including: A four-phase plan was developed for recovery and easing of restrictions; technology was used for tracking the cases of the infected, quarantined and contacts; medical field facilities were equipped in different regions of the country, and certain hotels and housing for people infected with the virus were allocated. Also, a work team was formed to inspect workers' housing and educate and urge workers to follow preventive measures; a platform was launched to record the contributions of those who wish to cooperate with the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management and employers were asked to play

(2) National Human Rights Committee, Fifteenth Annual Report 2019 p. 50.

(3) National Human Rights Committee, The Fifteenth Annual Report: The Situation of Human Rights in the State of Qatar, p. 9

(4) Planning and Statistics Authority, NDS-2 (2018-2022), p. 232.

an important role in providing workers with protection from the pandemic and in maintaining their health and safety.

It is expected that the achievements made so far in terms of access to justice will improve the standard of living of the population and raise the rates of sustainable human development. Moreover, the principles of transparency in the State of Qatar are prompted with the establishment and development of the Qatari Legal Portal as a comprehensive website that includes all legal legislations in effect, amended and repealed since 1961, judicial rulings issued by the Court of Cassation, agreements to which the State of Qatar is a party, fatwas, and the issues of the Official Gazette.

Strengthening Rule of Law

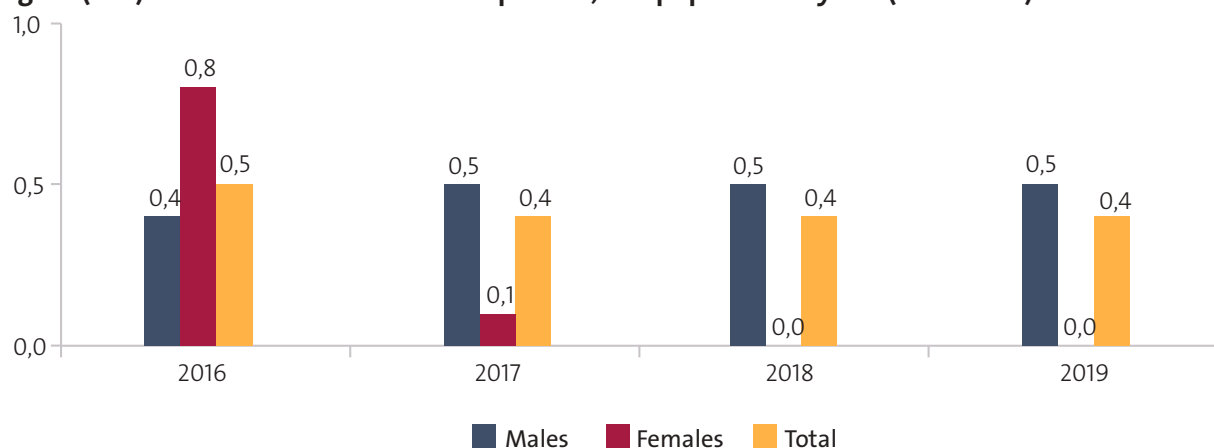
The State of Qatar subscribes to all international legal principles and norms that protect the individuals within its territory, and ensures the rights of all groups on the basis of the social justice enshrined in the country's Permanent Constitution. The general principle of equality set out in article 18 of the Constitution is elaborated in detail in part III, articles 34 and 35, concerning public rights and duties.

The aforementioned constitutional protection of the right to equality and non-discrimination was strengthened by the State's accession to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1976. All citizens and residents in the State of Qatar enjoy the rights and freedoms set forth in part III of the Permanent Constitution, without distinction as to sex, origin, language or religion. Article 52 of the Constitution explicitly states that: "All persons lawfully resident in the State are entitled to protection of their person and property as provided by law".

Reduction of all forms of violence

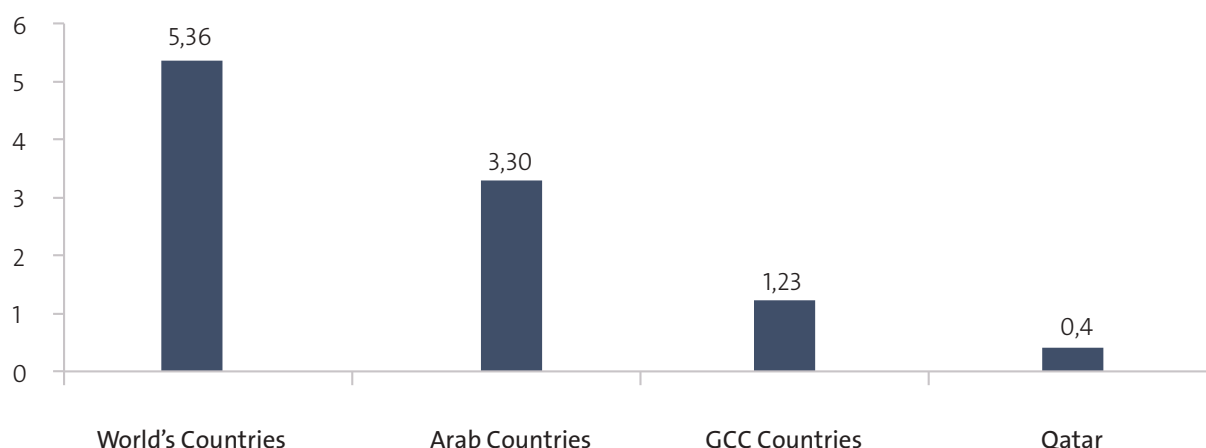
As for security and public safety, which are considered among the factors for the social, political and economic stability of countries, the State of Qatar has achieved advanced ranking through high ratings, the most prominent of which are (low rates of murder and acts of violence, limited spread of crime in society, political stability, a society free from terrorism and its impacts, and the absence of threats or conflicts, whether internal or external). This is evident by recording a stable number of victims of intentional homicide in Qatar for the third year in a row at (0.4) per 100,000 population since 2017. It remained this way for males, while it decreased for females, reaching (0.5) per 100,000 population since 2017, compared to 0.0 for females. The following two figures indicate the decrease in the number of victims of intentional homicide below the level recorded in the GSC countries and the Arab world.

Figure (16.1): Number of murder victims per 100,000 population by sex (2016-2019)



Source: Ministry of Interior and Planning and Statistics Authority calculations

Figure (16.2): Number of murder victims per 100,000 population



Source: Ministry of Interior and Planning and Statistics Authority calculations

Target (16.1): Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age.

Table (16.1) Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age group (2016-2019)

Gender	Characteristics	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Males	Total	Per 100,000 population	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	Reduced
Females	Total	Per 100,000 population	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	Reduced
Total	Total	Per 100,000 population	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	Reduced
Gender Parity Index			2.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	1.00
Males	Less than 15	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Reduced
	15-64	Per 100,000 population	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	Reduced
	65 +	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Reduced

Source: PSA calculations 2021

The State of Qatar continues to lead the list of the safest, secure and crime-free country in the world and the Arab world for the third year in a row and for the fourth time in its history, topping the Numbeo crime index for the year 2021, out of 135 countries. Qatar has the lowest number of crimes globally by scoring 12.29 points in the crime index, and 87.71 points in the safety and security index.

The State of Qatar's ranking in the global index is a continuation of its previous achievements in terms of advanced positions during the period from 2015 to 2020, as it ranked first globally in 2017, 2019 and 2020, while it maintained the first place in the Arab world throughout 2015 -2020. This reflects the stable level of security in Qatar and the significant decrease in the rates of recorded crimes. Numbeo Index classifies countries twice a year, i.e. at the beginning of the year and the in the middle of the year. The data of Table (16.2) reflects the stable level of security enjoyed by the State of Qatar and the clear decrease in the rates of perpetration of recorded crimes:

Table (16.2) Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in Qatar (2016-2019)

Description	Sex	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019
Murder	Males	No.	0	0	0	0
	Females	No.	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	Males	No.	0	0	0	0
	Females	No.	0	0	0	0
Enforced disappearance	Males	No.	0	0	0	0
	Females	No.	0	0	0	0
Arbitrary detention	Males	No.	0	0	0	0
	Females	No.	0	0	0	0
Torture	Males	No.	0	0	0	0
	Females	No.	0	0	0	0
Total	Males	No.	0	0	0	0
	Females	No.	0	0	0	0
Gender Parity Index						

Source: Ministry of Interior

Out of Qatar's belief that development is inseparable from conflict resolution efforts, many institutions are working to reduce the rate or levels of disputes by providing legal guidance and mediation, correcting mistakes and removing the seeds of corruption, in order to strengthen community ties and bring together the views of those affected in conflict. Thus, the State of Qatar is free of conflict-related deaths, as shown in the following table:

Table (16.3) Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex and age (2016-2019)

Sex	Age Group	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Males	Less than 15	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
	15-64	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
	65 +	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
	Total	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
Females	Less than 15	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
	15-64	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
	65 +	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
	Total	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
Total	Less than 15	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
	15-64	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
	65 +	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
	Total	Per 100,000 population	0	0	0	0	Reduce
Gender Parity Index							

Source: Ministry of Interior

Moreover, Qatar has ranked first in the Arab world and seventh globally out of 128 countries at the Global Finance's Safety Index for 2019. This index measures safety in various fields to be collected and analysed according to standard scores that give the overall ranking of countries, providing a comprehensive view of the economic security of each country. The global indices have relied on their results and ratings to measure the state of security and peace in the competing countries by measuring several factors, most notably the rates of major crimes, extent to which safety measures and community partnership are promoted, as well as the quality of services provided to the public and enhancing security awareness in society.

16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live.

Table (16.4) Global Peace Index (2016-2020)

Description	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Global ranking	34	34	56	31	27
MENA Ranking	1	1	3	1	1
Index	1.716	1.664	1.869	1.696	1.616

Source: Global Peace Index

The State of Qatar ranked 1st in the Arab world and 16th globally in the Societal Safety and Security index, making Qatar one of the 20 safest countries in the world. The Index also ranked Qatar 161st globally (reverse index), making it among the Gulf, Arab and international economic countries least affected by violence. This classification reflects Qatar's global position in the field of security, which was in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Ministry of Interior's strategy to enhance security and safety at the country level.

Table (16.5) Global Peace Index (2016-2020)

Description	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Global ranking	34	34	56	31	27
MENA Ranking	1	1	3	1	1
Index	1.716	1.664	1.869	1.696	1.616

Source: Global Peace Index

Table (16.6) Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live by sex (2016-2019)

Sex	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Males	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Females	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Gender Parity Index		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Source: Global Peace Index

Additionally, out of 163 countries, Qatar ranked first in the Middle East and North Africa region in Global Peace Index⁵, which is issued by the Institute for Economics and Peace in Sydney, Australia. The Global Peace Index is based on three main criteria: the level of Societal Safety and Security, the extent of Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict, and the degree of Militarization, in addition to a set of criteria related to different fields, including the internal and external affairs of states.

(5) Global Peace Index

The Global Peace Index is an attempt to measure the relative peacefulness of countries and regions. It is produced by the Institute for Economic and Peace in consultation with an international team of experts from institutes and research centers and in cooperation with the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney in Australia.

In the context of combating violence, the State of Qatar has not recorded an increase in the number and percentage of the population who have been subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence from 2016 to 2019, as this percentage remained at 0.05% of the total population, as is evident from the following table:

16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months.

Table (16.7) Number and percentage of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence by sex, age group, educational status, marital status, relation to labour force and municipality (2016-2019)

Characteristics		2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Healthy person	Males	924	847	607	804	Reduce
	Females	360	390	424	459	Reduce
	Total	1284	1237	1031	1263	Reduce
Person with a disability	Males	0	0	3	0	Reduce
	Females	0	0	4	0	Reduce
	Total	0	0	7	0	Reduce
Sex	Males	924	847	610	804	Reduce
	Females	360	390	428	459	Reduce
	Total	1284	1237	1038	1263	Reduce
% of total population	Males	0.05%	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	Reduce
	Females	0.06%	0.06%	0.06%	0.06%	Reduce
	Total	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.05%	Reduce
Gender Parity Index		0.4	0.5	0.7	2.8	1.0

Source: Ministry of Interior

In addition to Law No. (11) of 2004 that punishes anyone who commits a crime, Qatar provides institutional protection for all victims of violence, providing the services of some protection and social rehabilitation centres, such as “Aman” centre, which is in charge of the protection and rehabilitation of women and children victims of violence and their reintegration into society through external visits and internal care at the Centre’s shelter. Aman has several external offices operating in different sectors in the country, such as health sector institutions and institutions of the judicial, security and community sectors, in order to facilitate the access of the target groups of the Centre and speed up legal and judicial procedures.

Access to justice

The right of access to justice is guaranteed and protected under the Permanent Constitution, article 135 of which provides that: “The right of access to justice is inviolable and guaranteed to all. The law shall prescribe the procedures and conditions for the exercise of this right.” The Code of Criminal Procedure, the Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure, the Settlement of Administrative Disputes Act and the Family Code govern the procedures for recourse to the justice system. Where harm is established, the court may award fair compensation to the injured party for the harm incurred. Article 19 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act No. 23 of 2004), as amended.

The Qatari judiciary performs its mission as provided in article 130 of the Constitution, which states that: “Judicial authority is independent and vested in courts of different types and levels. Courts shall give their judgements in accordance with the law.”

The State of Qatar is keen to observe and guarantee the right of access to justice for all groups within the community, including migrant workers subject to the Labour Code (Act No. 14 of 2004). In that context, it amended some of the Code's provisions, pursuant to Act No. 13 of 2017, so as to create committees for the settlement of labour disputes at the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs. Chaired by a first instance court judge selected by the Supreme Judicial Council and comprising two members designated by the Minister, one of whom must have accounting expertise, the committees are vested with competence to resolve all individual disputes arising from the application of the Labour Code or employment contracts. Their decisions are summarily enforced and may be appealed by the concerned parties before the competent court of appeal division.

The State of Qatar has exerted great efforts to strengthen institutions, legislation, and mechanisms to ensure access to justice for all, and to provide the necessary legal assistance to initiate the judicial procedures; especially assistance to people who are unable to afford legal representation. In this context, during the second half of the year 2019, a dedicated prosecution office for human trafficking was set up within the Public Prosecution Office. The past two years also witnessed the Ministry of Administrative Development and Labour and Social Affairs announcing the "E-Contract System" to avoid changing the terms of contracts upon the arrival of the worker to the country. The system stipulates the existence of a direct employment contract between the employer and the migrant worker, followed by the granting of a work visa. In addition, dedicated offices are opened in labour-exporting countries to notify the government of such countries of any suspected cases of human trafficking.

Further, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT) monitors and follows up cases and refers them to the competent authorities. The Humanitarian Care Home - specialized in receiving cases of human trafficking - was opened in July 2019 at the Qatar Red Crescent Department. A unit concerned with the tracking data on human trafficking has been established within the Public Prosecution Office. As the committee is keen to combat all forms of exploitation of persons, it recommended in its reports to amend Law No. (15) of 2011 Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Equality Before Courts and Right to a Fair Trial

The Constitution guarantees equality before the law. Article 35 provides that: "All persons are equal before the law and there shall be no discrimination among them on grounds of sex, origin, language or religion." The Constitution also states that accused persons are innocent until proven guilty and guarantees their right to a fair hearing. Article 39 provides that: "An accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law in which the necessary guarantees for exercising the right of defence are secured." Judicial proceedings are regulated by the Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure (Act No. 13 of 1990), as amended, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act No. 23 of 2004) and the Judicial Authority Act No. 10 of 2003, as amended, most recently by Act No. 4 of 2019. The above laws offer all guarantees of a fair hearing, including the independence and impartiality of the judiciary; safeguards for accused persons; enabling the access of accused persons to the competent court; completion of proceedings within a reasonable period; exercise of the right of defence; access to the right to the enforcement of judicial decisions; the right of equality before the law and the courts; the right of accused persons not to be subjected to physical or mental duress or to any form of torture or cruel or degrading treatment; the presumption of innocence; a hearing before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal offering the guarantees required to exercise the right of defence; the right to a public hearing; the right of accused persons to call witnesses; and the right to appeal and to appeal in cassation.

16-2-1 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation.

Table (16.8) Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age group and form of exploitation (2016-2019)

Description		Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Victims of human trafficking		No.	0	0	0	0	0
		Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sex	Males	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Females	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Age group	Less than 15	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	15-24	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	25+	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Form of exploitation	Victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Victims of human trafficking for forced labor, servitude and slavery	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Victims of human trafficking for organ removal	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Victims of human trafficking for other purposes	Per 100,000 population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gender Parity Index			-	-	-	-	-

Source: National Human Rights Commission

Regarding the legislative developments related to access to justice, several laws related to human rights have been issued, most notably the Emiri Decree No. (47) of 2019 establishing and forming the Supreme Committee to prepare for the Shura Council elections. This also includes the Cabinet's decision to establish the National Committee for Women, Children, Elderly People and Persons with Disabilities, to monitor the status of the rights of the aforementioned groups, and to suggest ways to enhance the goals set out in international conventions ratified by the state, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and so on.

Qatar develops the draft Child Protection Law to strengthen the capacity to monitor cases of violence and prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment against children of both sexes. The draft law also includes provisions for protection from exploitation in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It aspires to form a comprehensive legal framework for monitoring cases of violence, to provide a great achievement in the field of child protection in Qatar, as well as to provide greater equal educational opportunities for males and females without discrimination, in accordance with the content of Article 49 of Qatar constitution, which stipulates the right to education for both sexes.

This indicates that the State of Qatar was able to achieve target (4-5) of SDG 4: “By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.”

It goes with saying that the State of Qatar has achieved various achievements in the area of child protection, boosting up its ranking in relevant indicators. However, the future challenge in the field of childcare requires the expansion of services, especially emergency services for children, in municipalities located outside the major cities; Doha and Al-Rayyan. This is in addition to the diversification of care services to include various family and social aspects to face changing societal behaviours and new social challenges resulted from the spread of modern means of communication in society and the multiplicity of cultural practices, in order to enhance the protection of children from various harmful practices.

16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms.

Table (16.9) No. of victims of violence who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms by type of victimization and sex (2016-2019)

Type of Victimization	Sex	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019
Severe abuse	Males	No.	24	6	4	23
	Females	No.	5	0	3	1
	Total	No.	29	6	7	24
Habitual abuse	Males	No.	1,506	1,275	1,018	1,247
	Females	No.	613	568	542	562
	Total	No.	2,119	1,843	1,560	1,809
Total	Males	No.	1,530	1,281	1,022	1,270
	Females	No.	618	568	545	563
	Total	No.	2,148	1,849	1,567	1,833
Gender Parity Index			0.40	0.44	0.53	0.44

Source: Ministry of Interior

Supporting administrative control and transparency in transactions

The State of Qatar is a member of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF), and the Egmont Group to enhance international cooperation between financial information units. Seeking the fulfilment of the obligations resulting from the ratification of UNCAC, some legislative amendments were made to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Law. Amendments were issued to the Qatari Penal Code No. (11) of 2004 by Law No. (2) of 2020, and amendments to criminal procedures were issued in Law No. (6) of 2020 amending certain provisions of the Criminal Procedure Law issued by Law No. (23) of 2004.

In addition, the legal and institutional system of the State of Qatar has absorbed most of the obligations related to criminal justice of UNCAC contained in Articles 7, 8, and 11. The State's Constitution promulgated in 2004 includes a clear separation between the executive, legislative and judicial authorities, and gives the judiciary complete independence as stipulated in the Judicial Authority Law No. (10) of 2003. The legislative framework for transparency and integrity and addressing conflicts of interest was also strengthened by adopting in principle the draft law pending the issuance of the law.

Moreover, Qatari legislation includes comprehensive provisions related to reporting corruption by public officials, and the Ministry of Interior set up a hotline and a special e-mail to receive reports. As a result, the number of people who were victims of corruption by a government official has decreased significantly from 33 in 2016 to 9 in 2019, as shown in the following table:

16.4.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months.

Table (16.10) No. of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials by sex (2016-2019)

Sex	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Males	33	5	15	9	Reduce
Females	3	0	0	0	Reduce
Total	36	5	15	9	Reduce
Gender Parity Index	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

Source: Supreme Judicial Council & PSA accounts

Qatar has a strong and effective system within the framework of the enhancement of the state's commitment to the application of national mechanisms and international anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism and proliferation (AML/CFT) standards, as law enforcement agencies implement them under the umbrella of the National Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Committee (NAMLC) in accordance with international standards and practices. As a result, no case of illicit commercial funds has been recorded, while some criminal cases related to money laundering and corruption (bribery) were recorded during the last four years as shown in the following table:

16.5.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (at current US\$ price).

Table (16.11) No. of illicit financial flows by type (2016-2019)

Type	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Corruption (bribery)	No.	4	2	2	3	Reduce
Criminal (money- laundering)	No.	1	6	1	3	Reduce
Commercial	No.	0	0	0	0	Reduce
Total	No.	5	8	3	6	Reduce

Source: PSA 2021

Table (16.12) Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars) (2016-2019)

Flow direction	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	Goal by 2030
Inward	US\$	26,027	618,600	70,945	493,151	Reduce
Outward	US\$	54,795	154,468	11,773	109,630	Reduce
Total	US\$	80,822	773,068	82,718	602,781	Reduce

Source: PSA 2021

The State of Qatar seeks to enhance the principle of transparency and accountability at all levels, and major agencies in the state are promoting these principles, the most important of which is:

- **The Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA)** which has the mandate to look at and study the reasons for the deficiencies in the administrative, technical and financial systems that hinder the regular functioning of the bodies subject to the Authority's supervision, while proposing means to avoid the same. ACTA has adopted a national strategy to promote integrity and transparency, and it is also working on disseminating knowledge related to promoting integrity and transparency, facilitating individuals' access to such knowledge, proposing measures that contribute to defining the phenomenon of corruption, its effects and the risks of its spread, and providing direct communication channels with the public. The purpose of such channels is to receive their suggestions and complaints about acts involving corruption and lack of integrity, and take the necessary practical measures to verify these complaints, in coordination with the concerned authorities in the state, and establish training programs to educate state employees, especially employees of financial institutions.

Further, the enhancement of transparency includes, inter alia, the regulatory law for finance, the Law on the Regulation of Tenders and Auctions, and the Human Resources Law, the preparation of a proposal for the Integrity of Public Officials Charter, the issuance of the Unified Economic Register Law (Law No. 1 of 2020), and the issuance of Law No. 12 of 2020 Organizing the Partnership between the Public and Private Sector (the PPP Law). All such laws are based on international standards of transparency and integrity set forth in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and other relevant international agreements and standards, all of which are legal mechanisms that apply to all government agencies, including criminal justice institutions.

Qatari legislation also includes comprehensive provisions related to reporting corruption of public officials. Among the mechanisms, the Ministry of Interior has set up a hotline and e-mail to report corruption crimes with complete confidentiality of information, in addition to an application on smartphones with a “Mettrash” system that enables reporting information on all crimes, including those related to corruption.⁶

- **The Audit Bureau** which aims to achieve control over State funds and the funds of other entities subject to its audit, verify the integrity and legitimacy of the utilization and good management of such funds, improve the use of State resources to achieve sustainable development and community welfare, and contribute to improvement of the principles of accountability and transparency of the bodies subject to the Bureau’s control.
- On the **international level**, the State of Qatar was unanimously elected to membership of several international institutions and bodies at the United Nations, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Qatar also launched the annual Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award; an award presented annually on International Anti-Corruption Day (9th December), in recognition and appreciation to those who have contributed to the global campaign against corruption. Qatar also implemented the Doha Declaration Global Programme at the conclusion of the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Qatar in 2015, which resulted in the implementation of 4 programs related to education for justice, judicial integrity, prisoner rehabilitation, crime prevention through sport

Supporting citizens participation in the development process

Participation in development is considered one of the important elements and a determining factor for the development success in achieving its gains in decision-making and monitoring its implementation by taking concerted actions to enhance youth training on participatory values, human rights, and awareness of their role in national development. Laws, policies and programs are of utmost benefit when people participate in their development. The Qatar National Vision 2030, NDS-1 (2011-2016) and NDS-2 (2018-2022) were remarkably participatory, as they included an extensive and comprehensive dialogue with ministries and government agencies, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and local and international experts. On 3 November 2020, the Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad announced that the first elections for the Shura Council would be held in October 2021. This came during a speech His Highness gave at the Opening of the 49th Shura Council Session, in which he confirmed that the elections would be held upon completion of necessary preparations. He also explained that the election would be held according to the constitution which was approved by a popular referendum in 2003 and issued in 2004.

Use of government websites

Qatar National Vision 2030 aims to promote development to include all individuals in the country and to ensure their full participation, as well as the state’s implementation of development programs, so that the implementation process is transparent and accountable. If we look at the Qatar National Vision 2030 from this angle, we will find that it is well aligned with the articles of the Declaration on the Right to Development, as it focuses on meaningful education, health, social protection, skills development, and women engagement in development, as well as the state’s commitment to contribute to International cooperation.

(6) Administrative Control and Transparency Authority: - Criminal justice and education in the State of Qatar in light of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. May 2017
https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/workinggroup4/2017-August-21-23/Contributions_NV/Qatar_AR.pdf

One aspect of the broad participation of citizens in development is the use of the government websites, clearly by the government and the public. The government can use these platforms to inform and educate the public, while the public can participate in public discussions, and make positive contributions by offering ideas or views. Furthermore, providing sufficient space for Qataris and non-Qataris alike to express their views via Internet forums or other mechanisms, contributes to deepening the participation process.

Moreover, the State of Qatar guarantees clear participation in decision-making as follows:

- Making information about the general budget available to the general public in the State of Qatar, where an annual law is issued to approve the state's general budget in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of the State's Financial System Law, which states that "the State's general budget shall be adopted by a law. The Ministry of Finance shall submit the final draft of the state's public budget, including the total sum of the main chapters and sectors, accompanied by a draft law adopting them, to the Council of Ministers for approval. The State's general budget is made available on the website of the Ministry of Finance indicating the budget allocated to each sector of the state via the following electronic link:

<https://portal.mof.gov.qa/ar/Pages/StateBudget2020.aspx>

- The public communicates with very important figures in the State (it is known that the public can communicate directly via e-mail with the Prime Minister, the Director of Public Security, and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Interior, through the link available on the Internet:

<https://portal.moi.gov.qa/wps/portal/MOInternet/aboutministry/officialspersonalities>

The percentage of the population that is satisfied with their recent experience in using public services (such as schools, public health and government services) may suggest that they are satisfied with the quality of life, which is revealed by the results of the surveys aimed at identifying public opinion trends regarding issues of concern to the interests of citizens and residents in the following table. As well, data from other surveys show the highest levels of satisfaction with utilities and public administration.⁷

16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services.

Table (16.13) Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services, 2012

Type of Service	Sex	Unit	Family Life	Friendships	Education Services	Health Services	Living Environment	Current employment	Others' Treatment	Appearance	Satisfaction with life in general	Current Income
Qataris	Male	%	91.8	91.2	94.4	53.5	90.2	97.7	91.8	92.5	92.2	97.2
	Female	%	97.7	96.8	92.3	97.7	96.3	97.1	98.0	98.5	98.2	97.5
Non-Qataris	Male	%	93.4	92.4	93.5	49.7	86.2	94.3	90.6	93.1	92.7	92.1
	Female	%	97.8	94.6	93.9	95.9	93.2	94.8	95.9	96.9	97.9	93.7
Total	Male	%	92.8	92.0	93.9	50.9	87.5	95.3	91.0	92.9	92.5	93.6
	Female	%	97.7	95.3	93.2	96.5	94.2	95.5	96.6	97.5	98.0	94.9
Gender Parity Index			1.05	1.04	-	-	-	-	1.06	1.05	1.06	1.01

Source: PSA - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

(7) [http://www.qu.edu.qa/static_file/qu/research/SESRI/documents/Publications/16/Citizen Measuring the level of satisfaction of citizens and residents with public services in Qatar and their impact on the quality of life](http://www.qu.edu.qa/static_file/qu/research/SESRI/documents/Publications/16/Citizen%20Measuring%20the%20level%20of%20satisfaction%20of%20citizens%20and%20residents%20with%20public%20services%20in%20Qatar%20and%20their%20impact%20on%20the%20quality%20of%20life)

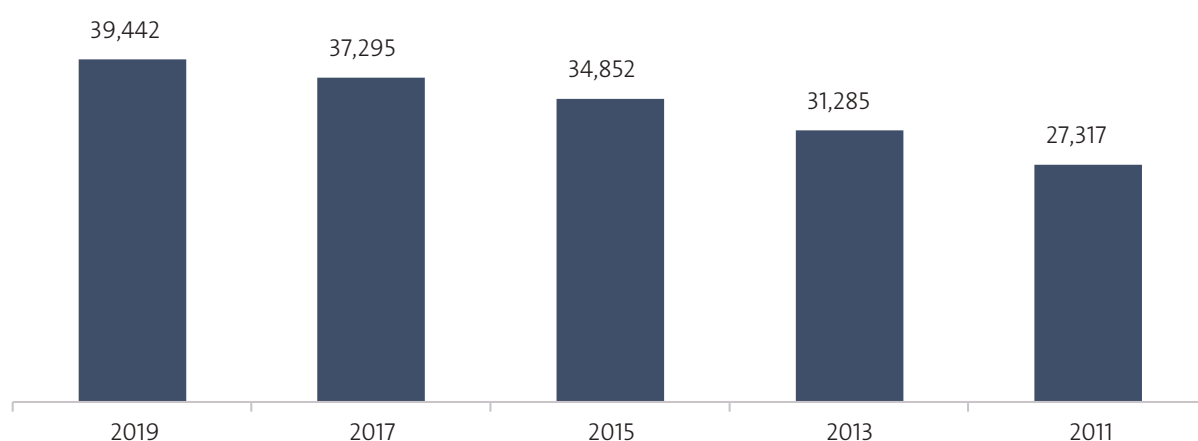
The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) also suggests high levels in the first quarter of 2020, as its value reached (5,184) points, a decrease of (0.1) compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, which is the same value recorded in the first quarter of 2019.⁸ Households expressed the rise of its levels of optimism regarding the current conditions during the first quarter of 2020 compared to the previous quarter, which reflects the continued confidence of consumers regarding the economic conditions in the country. The same is applicable to businessmen, as the Business Confidence Index (BCI) recorded positive levels during the first quarter of 2020.⁹

It is also noted that the sub-index of the future status of households has stabilized during the first quarter of 2020 at (191.1) points, which is the same value recorded in the previous quarter. The sub-index remained at high levels of optimism, given that 2022 FIFA World Cup and new development projects in the State of Qatar would stimulate the economy and create new job opportunities.

Empowerment of Qatari Women

The Qatar Population Status Report 2020 states that the number of economically active Qatari women reached (39,442) women in 2019, after it was (27,317) in 2011, a total increase of (12,125) women in 8 years and an annual increase of (1,516) women. This increase resulted in the expanded participation of Qatari women in the workforce, to account for 37% of the total Qatari workforce in 2019, up from about 34% in 2011.

Figure (16.3) Increasing number of economically active Qatari women during the period (2011-2019)



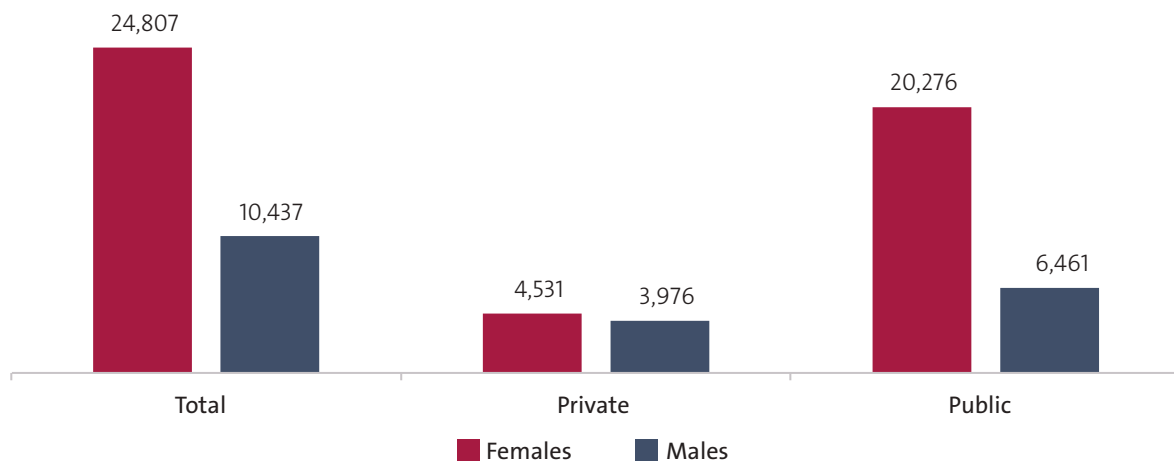
Source: Planning and Statistics Authority, Labor Force Sample Survey, various years

As the economic participation rate of Qatari women increases, the State of Qatar is moving towards achieving target (8.5); namely, “By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.”

In addition, the total number of female students in public and private universities amounted to more than the double of male students in the academic year 2018/2019, as the number of female students reached 24,807 female students, while the number of male students did not exceed 10,437 students during the aforementioned academic year.

(8) Planning and Statistics Authority. - Consumer Confidence Index for the State of Qatar. - First Quarter 2020, Page 5.
 (9) Planning and Statistics Authority. – Business Confidence Index for the State of Qatar. - First Quarter 2020, Page 4.

Figure (16.4) The number of university students by gender and type of education for the 2018-2019 academic year



Source: Planning and Statistics Authority, Education Statistics, Chapter Four 2019

This figure indicates that the State of Qatar has remarkably managed to bridge the gender gap between males and females in the field of education. This confirms that the Qatari educational system has already been able to provide equal educational opportunities for males and females without discrimination, in accordance with the content of Article 49 of Qatar Constitution which provides for the right to education for both sexes.

In the same vein, the aforementioned figure confirms the State of Qatar's endeavour towards achieving the targets of SDG 4 of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; namely, "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

On the other hand, economic, social and cultural rights for women are developing, whereby working women are present at an equal rate in the public and private sectors. The past two years have witnessed the number of female employees exceeding the number of males, and women receive equal opportunities in training.

Despite the progress made in the economic participation of Qatari women, this participation was not accompanied by an increase in the presence of women in the higher and supervisory professions, as according to the Labour Force Sample Survey 2018, the percentage of Qatari women in the professions of legislators, senior officials and managers did not exceed 2% of the total economically active Qataris.

Table (16.14) Proportion of economically active females (15 years and above) by occupation and sector (2019)

Occupation	Sector							
	Gov. Department	Govt. Company / Corporation	Mixed	Private	Diplomatic\ international\ Regional	Non-profit	Domestic	Total
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	3.3	3.1	5.0	3.4	15.4	0.0	0.0	2.2
Professionals	54.6	36.6	34.9	29.5	41.3	44.5	0.1	22.4
Technicians & Associate Professionals	11.4	7.8	6.4	5.8	5.2	11.1	1.3	5.0
Clerks	25.0	21.1	44.7	12.9	38.1	43.1	0.0	11.4
Service Workers & Shop & Market Sales Workers	5.2	28.7	3.3	29.5	0.0	0.0	13.7	18.5
Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Craft & Related Trades Workers	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2
Plant & Machine Operators and Assemblers	0.4	2.6	5.8	18.8	0.0	1.3	84.4	40.2
Elementary Occupations	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	3.3	3.1	5.0	3.4	15.4	0.0	0.0	2.2

Source: PSA - Labor Force Sample Survey.

However, women's participation in public life, especially politics, is still weak. Despite the progress made in the participation of Qatari women in economic life, their political participation is still weak. According to Qatar's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Report issued by the Planning and Statistics Authority in 2018, the participation of Qatari women in the seats of the Central Municipal Council did not exceed 6.9% of the total seats for the year 2017. There are 4 women in the Shura Council out of 41 members, 3 female judges, 3 female members of the Public Prosecution Office, a Minister of Health, and an assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Women are in many positions of diplomatic representation and supervisory positions in government agencies in the State of Qatar.

Empowerment of People with Disabilities

The State of Qatar believes in the rights of persons with disabilities and addresses such rights on the basis of both a constitutional and legislative approach. Qatar reflects this belief in all its plans and programs in various fields (education, health care, work, adequate housing, public and private facilities, culture and sports) and so on. The goal is to enable persons with disabilities to participate in economic and social life, and to develop and improve care services provided to this category. Qatar's New Population Policy 2017-2022 has singled out one of its axes to empower persons with disabilities, and it has also identified a set of procedures that help evaluate the implementation of this population policy, monitor the achievements made, and uncover the existing challenges of persons with disabilities. This attention reflects Qatar's belief in protecting the rights of persons

with disabilities and providing support to their families as a means to establish equality among members of society; a principle affirmed in the State's constitution and national laws, as the constitution recognized that the principle of equality is one of the basic pillars upon which Qatari society is based.

Promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities with a view to empowerment

The State of Qatar is one of the first countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008. Since that time, Qatar has made great strides in promoting and protecting their rights, integrating them into society and engaging them in the development process. This has been included in the Qatar National Vision 2030, which encompasses the realization of equality and justice for all groups and sectors of society. There are currently 34 competent agencies in Qatar that provide specialized services to people with disabilities with various disabilities. The Qatar Population Status Report¹⁰ stated that the improvement of the services provided by the concerned centres explains the increase in the number of persons with disabilities registered in such centres (from 7,695 in 2016 to 12,135 in 2017), of whom 7,619 are males and 4,516 are females. This is shown in detail in the following table. The names of the centres mentioned in the table mirror the variety of services provided to persons with disabilities in the State of Qatar.

Table (16.15) Number of persons with disabilities registered at disability centres by nationality, 2019

Qatari	Non-Qatari	Total
8, 828	7, 917	16, 745

Source: Planning and Statistics Authority, Chapter IX – Disabilities, 2019

In their efforts and plans to integrate people with disabilities into society, the institutions working with persons with disabilities rely on accurate field survey data. This includes the Model Disability Survey carried out by the Planning and Statistics Authority, which enables the presentation of statistical chapters that include detailed data and the follow-up of these statistics annually¹¹. The survey aims to know the needs of persons with disabilities, identify the types of disabilities that exist in Qatar, and analyze the data collected in order to calculate the percentages related to the study and work on their integration within society.

Plans and strategies that support people with disabilities

The State of Qatar has approved many plans and strategies concerned with persons with disabilities, the most recent of which is Qatar National Autism Plan 2017-2021. The overarching aim of this plan is to improve the lives of individuals with autism and their families. Other sectoral plans in various service agencies have focused on the rights of people with disabilities, their development and capacity-building. The State's care for persons with disabilities takes a comprehensive perspective, and it is aware of the various aspects of concern to them and their families, as this care starts from the discovery of disability and its degree, through the medical, educational and social due care, up to capacity development, assistance to the degree of self-reliance and success in the educational and academic path, as well as integration into community activities and programs. Qatar provides all health services to people with disabilities along with comprehensive health care. The Ministry of Public Health has been keen on including the rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of the national health strategy. Qatar Rehabilitation Institute is one of the outputs of this strategy. It is the largest centre in the Arab region for persons with disabilities that provides various services, including community and career rehabilitation programs and research. Meanwhile, mental health

(10) Permanent Population Committee. Qatar Population Status Report 2019, p.90.

(11) The Planning and Statistics Authority annually issues data on those registered in disability centers by the type of disability, gender, nationality and age groups

was given a priority as one of three priorities in health services, based on the results of studies conducted by the State within the National Strategic Plan for Mental Health 2013- 2018.

In addition, the Population Policy of the State of Qatar 2017-2022¹² indicates that there are plans to prepare and implement rehabilitation and vocational training programs for people with disabilities in order to enable them to work in government and private institutions, with the participation of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs, the Qatar Rehabilitation Institute, and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Efforts at the international level to develop meaningful social policies

The State of Qatar organized the Doha International Conference on Disability and Development on 7-8 December 2019. The overall theme of the conference was “Harnessing the Power of Sustainable Development to Advance the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. The key visionary item on the agenda of the conference was about how to rationalize, consolidate, contextualize, and streamline the nexus between the UN SDGs and the UN CRPD based on the co-production of social policy between civil society and governmental and private sectors to achieve meaningful structural change to achieve inclusive equality. This event provided the organizations concerned with the rights of persons with disabilities, decision-makers, governments, civil society organizations, experts, and academics with an opportunity to express their opinions and share their experiences, especially with regard to coordination between development programs and the rights of persons with disabilities, in order to build a better future in which all individuals, without exception or discrimination, can obtain fair and equal opportunities, through:

- Shedding light on the most prominent issues of persons with disabilities and the challenges they face, and reviewing the most important global experiences to overcome the same;
- Investing in CRPD-SDGs intersection in order to adopt a global advocacy plan;
- Giving priority to the rights of persons with disabilities in the international development agenda;
- Underscoring Qatar’s commitment to inclusive policies that provide greater opportunities for people with disabilities.

The conference resulted in the adoption of the Doha Declaration, which serves as a reference point in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities, human rights, and comprehensive and sustainable human development. It strives to:

- Develop a general perspective of policies related to the rights of persons with disabilities at the global level;
- Raise awareness of the effects of regional policies;
- Support advocacy efforts by enhancing the participation of civil society;
- Lead reform efforts at the national level.

(12) The Permanent Population Committee, Qatar Population Policy 2017-2022
<https://www.ppc.gov.qa/ar/PopulationPolicy/points/Pages/default.aspx>

The most important legislative developments related to access to justice and the promotion of human rights

- Emiri Decree No. (47) of 2019 on the establishment and formation of the Higher Committee for the Shura Council elections;
- Cabinet's decision establishing the National Committee for Women, Children, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Affairs
- Decision No. (21) Of 2019 by the Minister of Administrative Development, Labour, and Social Affairs Regulating the conditions and procedures of the election of workers' representatives to joint committees.
- Arbitration Law No. (2) of 2017, which for the first time explicitly provided for banking arbitration in "banking disputes" in Paragraph No. 3 of Article No. 2;
- Law No. (17) of 2018 Establishing the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund;
- The establishment of the minimum wage since August 2020.
- The abolishment of the current requirement of NOC from the employer so that employees can change their workplace.
- The cancelation of the exit permits according to Minister of Interior Decision No. 95 of 2019 that revokes exit permits for all expatriates who are not subject to Qatar's labour law;
- The adoption of the Domestic Workers' Law (Law No. 15 of 2017 which regulates the relationship between domestic workers and their employers.
- Cabinet Resolution No. (29) of 2019 establishing the National Committee for Women, Children, Elderly People and Persons with Disabilities affairs;
- Interior Minister Decision No. (25) of 2019 regulating the entry and exit of expatriates and their residency within the framework of the permanent development of internal legislative systems in line with international standards;
- Cabinet Resolution No. (4) of 2020 organizing the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management;
- Law No. (9) of 2020 amending some provisions of Decree Law (17) of 1990 regarding the prevention of infectious diseases

Main challenges

Although great legislative and regulatory efforts have been exerted to consolidate the values of justice and participation, the realization of sustainability in this aspect requires concerted and continuous efforts based on best international practices and on vigorous efforts to build national economic and institutional capabilities. The 15th Annual Report on Human Rights Situation in Qatar 2019¹³ mentioned the issuance of legislation that in derogation to international human rights standards, including the law amending the provisions of Law on the Settlement of Administrative Disputes, which has emphasized the immunity of certain administrative decisions from judicial review, such as orders, decisions, and Emiri decrees and decisions issued under the Protection of Society Law, as well as decisions issued under the laws on political asylum, permanent residence,

(13) National Human Rights Commission - The Fifteenth annual report: Human Rights Situation in the State of Qatar. page. 9 <https://nhrc-qa.org/en/themencode-pdf-viewer-sc/?file=https://nhrc-qa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Annualreport2019.pdf&settings=111111111&lang=en-US#page=&zoom=auto>

and the law regulating entry, exit and deportation of expatriates, in addition to laws on Private Associations and Foundations, religious centres, press and publication licenses and newspaper and magazine licenses. The Anti-money Laundering and terrorist Financing Law and the Anti-Terrorism Law have also been enacted, reflecting Qatar efforts, leading role in the region and permanent quest to combat all forms of terrorism. However, despite the positive aspects, these Legislation included articles restricting the civil rights and personal freedoms of individuals, and granting exceptional powers to the Public Prosecutor's Office, particularly with regard to pre-trial detention' decisions and extensions, in contravention of international human rights standards.

The State of Qatar has made significant strides in the area of women's rights, empowerment and equality with men. Moreover, Qatar has established many institutions based on the integrative, interdependent and indivisible concept at the governmental and non-governmental levels and in many institutions and bodies concerned with the rights of the most vulnerable groups. However, the participation of women in decision-making and the assumption of senior positions and supervisory professions by women is still weak, given the number of women present in appointed and elected councils and those assuming ministerial portfolios. Granting Qatari nationality to the husband and children of Qatari women remains a challenge, as the National Human Rights Committee recommends amending the nationality law to achieve full equality among citizens in nationality matters, and granting women the right to confer nationality to their husbands and children.¹⁴

(14) National Human Rights Commission - The Fifteenth annual report: Human Rights Situation in the State of Qatar. Page 47.



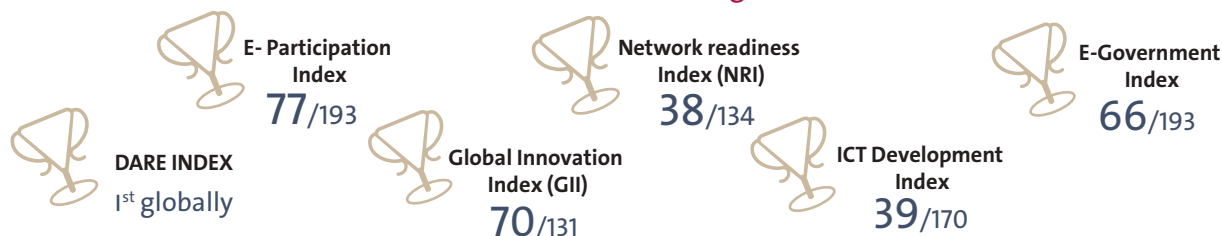


17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Infographics

Some indicators of progress in the digital infrastructure in the State of Qatar at the international level, according to rank



The percentage (%) of Internet users in 2020



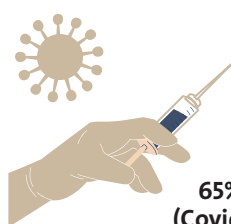
Percentage (%) of expenditure on research and development



Total exports, imports and merchandise trade balance for the year 2020 (in million US Dollars)



Qatar Fund for Development



65% of those eligible for the (Covid-19) vaccine in the State of Qatar have received at least one dose of this vaccine.

Covid -19
June ,2 2021

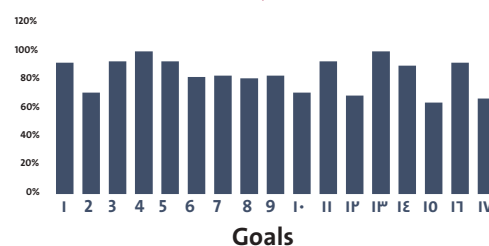
86% While 86% of them received both doses of the vaccine

93% 93% of the elderly persons over the age of 60 have received at least one dose of the vaccine

Some contributions of the State of Qatar regarding the response to COVID-19



Level of SDGs indicators availability in Qatar, 2019



SDG 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

When adopting The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, countries of the world unanimously agreed that partnership for development is essential in addressing the complex and various challenges of Sustainable Development. They also agreed that the world can achieve the goals of the aforementioned agenda only through a strong commitment, partnership and cooperation at the national and international levels. Day after day, it becomes clear that the world is more interconnected than ever before, thanks to the ability to access technology, knowledge and artificial intelligence. Also, partnership in development is an important means for exchanging ideas and promoting innovation in business. Thus, the global partnership must depend on internal and external investment and innovative financing, with emphasis on building national capacities and skills, and enhancing access to global trade.

The State of Qatar attaches great importance to partnership in many fields, including the field of internal and external investment and innovative financing. It also plays an important role in international alliances and in the United Nations system and its specialized agencies. The Global Vaccine Alliance is a vivid example of the partnership that the whole world needs to address the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a form of cooperation that requires expansion to include the wide spectrum of issues addressed by The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is imperative that the partnership ensure the coherence of policies related to the development process, so that it includes a wide range of development financing sources, and addresses the important issues that underpin sustainable development for all, according to the fundamental principle that «no one shall be left behind». FIFA World Cup 2022 is the greatest evidence of Qatar ability to engage in the largest global partnerships.

First: Finance

An international consensus is reached on the need to mobilize financial resources from many sources and efficiently spend them in order to achieve the goals of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This was emphasized in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development that took place in Addis Ababa on 13-16 July 2015, and at the Doha High-level Conference on Financing for Development, held in November 2017, as financing for development was considered an important means to implement the goals of the aforementioned agenda, and has the same importance as goals and objectives. It is imperative that this take place within the framework of a renewed global partnership, supported by the policies and procedures as outlined in the outcome documents of the aforementioned two conferences.

Financing

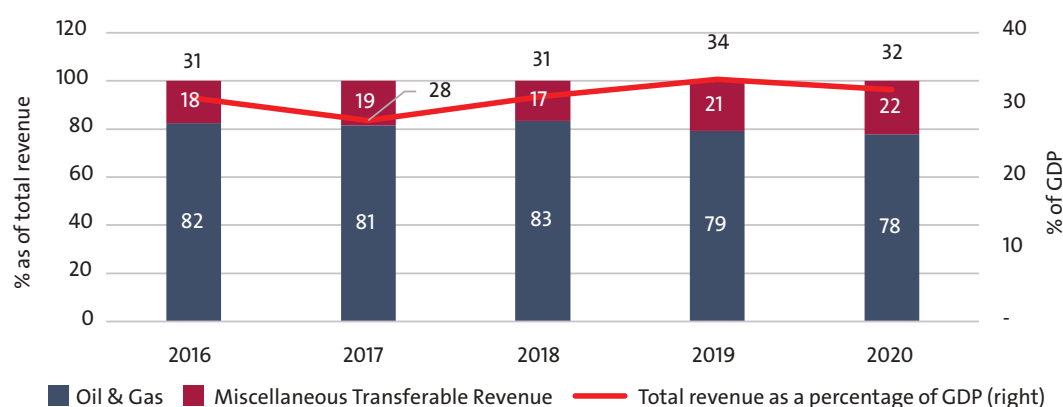
The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered severe negative effects on the global economy, but its impact has widely varied country-by-country, depending on the assets that enable them to withstand this pandemic, which relatively impacts the economies of many countries of the world. In the State of Qatar, it has been possible to deal with its effects to a large extent, due to the economic and health measures and policies that the state has taken in order to contain this virus and its repercussions. The government issued a number of fiscal and monetary policies as proactive measures to contain the expected economic and social consequences.

Indicator 17.1.1: Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source.

The average government revenue as a proportion of GDP (Indicator 17.1.1) during the period 2016-2020 was about 31%. It peaked at 34% in 2019, thanks to higher oil prices, and for the same reason it decreased to 28% in 2015.

Qatar realizes the importance of relying on non-oil revenues by diversifying sources of income. Currently, oil revenues constitute an average of 81% of total revenues, so the government began to take some steps towards achieving tax revenues. Since the beginning of 2019, it began to impose Excise Tax (excise tax on some harmful goods), and it is preparing to apply value-added tax, in order to achieve financial sustainability.

Figure (17.1) Revenue as a proportion of GDP



Source: Ministry of Finance and Prepared by the Planning and Statistics Authority

Qatar continues to cut spending and has tried to diversify its sources of income, including foreign investment. The total spending was reduced from 222 billion Qatari riyals in 2016 to 182 billion riyals in 2020, while the annual average of Qatari outward foreign direct investment reached about 4 billion dollars per year during the period 2016-2020 (Indicator 17.3.1).

The aim of foreign investments and the application of taxes is to generate sustainable income to finance the state's general budget (Indicator 17.1.2). They also aim to pay off the public debt, as the annual cost of the debt service (domestic and external) as a proportion of exports of goods and services (Indicator 17.4.1) reached almost 2.9% of total exports. It reached a peak in 2020 at 4.5%, due to the increase in external public debt by a rate of 81% during the period 2016-2020. On the other hand, the proportion of general budget funded by non-oil revenues increased from 18% in 2016 to 22% in 2020. The average annual revenue from Qatar's investments abroad was about \$ 8 billion per year during the period 2016-2020.

17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI).

Table (17.1) The volume of development and relief assistance (US dollars) provided by the State of Qatar to other countries and organizations, including the United Nations, 2015 -2018

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Developmental	346,084,444	381,456,173	366,883,135	257,583,066
Relief	171,271,807	196,090,041	187,276,466	98,410,909
Total	517,356,252	577,546,214	554,159,601	355,993,974

Source: Ministry of foreign Affairs

The State of Qatar is keen to provide development and relief assistance to countries in need around the world, and to contribute to achieving the goals of The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, as part of its commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, especially the principle of cooperation and partnership. On the side-lines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, especially in the Climate Action Summit held on 23 September 2019, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, announced that Qatar will contribute \$100mn for the support of small developing island states and the least developed states to deal with the climate change and environmental challenges. Furthermore, Education Above All Foundation (EAA) and the World Bank announced a ground-breaking partnership to commit up to \$250 million in funding to enrol two million out-of-school children in quality education in 40 countries. The above table shows relief and development aid provided by Qatar.

In the Doha Forum 2018, Qatar also announced a multi-year support of \$500 million to fund UN agencies. Thus, the total financial assistance provided by the Qatar Fund for Development to support the education sector in several regions of the world amounted to about \$710 million during the period from 2013 to 2019.

17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP.

Table (17.2) shows the volume of remittances from Qatar to the rest of the world during the period 2015-2020

Table (17.2) Volume of workers remittances in Qatar as a proportion of total GDP

(In million Us dollars)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Workers' remittances	12,040	11,835	12,600	11,413	11,814	10,610
GDP	161,740	151,732	161,099	183,335	175,838	146,401
Remittances as proportion of GDP	7.44	7.80	7.82	6.23	6.72	7.25

Source: Qatar Central Bank and Planning and Statistics Authority

The Sustainable Development Agenda emphasizes the importance of partnerships for global development and focuses on facilitating and strengthening financial links between countries. Remittances are monetary transfers sent by workers living in the State of Qatar to their families back home, mostly directed to a number of countries; such as

India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Arab countries. Such partnerships have a positive impact on the economies of these countries and contribute to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Table 17.2 indicates that the volume of such remittances declined from 12 billion US dollars in 2015 to 10.6 billion dollars in 2020, and this amount constitutes about 7.3 percent of GDP. The decline in these remittances in 2020 is largely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the decline in economic activity. Remittances are expected to rise again after recovering from the pandemic.

Second: Technology

The field of research, development and innovation is one of the most important means to implement The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to increase productivity in the sectors of The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022. Moreover, this field constitutes a major long-term lever for economic growth and prosperity. It contributes to achieving many goals and objectives in many sectors, especially in relation to education, health, food security, environment, human capital investment and capacity building. This is important as the world is joining hands to fight the COVID-19 pandemic through a series of health and social measures in cooperation with the World Health Organization.

In light of the borders closure, curfews, closures of schools and universities, and other restrictions on movement, digital transformation in the State of Qatar came as a lifeline for institutions, companies and individuals. Online shopping and entertainment; digital health and financial services; digital administrative transactions; online conferences, workshops and seminars; and distance education using electronic applications have been used in order to address the emergency conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The aforementioned measures led the people's lives and livelihoods in Qatari society.

Over the past two decades, Qatar has made many achievements in the field of education and research. It has established world-class educational and research institutions, which represent the starting point for its ambitious journey in the field of research, development, innovation and building a knowledge-based economy. Qatar foundation's Education City is home to branches of some of the world's leading universities, along with national universities such as Qatar University and Hamad Bin Khalifa University, which constitute a promising force for the education and research system in the country. As well, Qatar is at the forefront of the countries in the region in the field of research, as it has developed a solid research base within a short period of time.

The State of Qatar attaches great importance to and heavily invests in the field of science and technology. It seeks to ensure that everyone has access to technology and build a knowledge-based society. Table 17.3 shows some technology indicators in which the State of Qatar occupied advanced positions.

Table (17.3) Some global indicators of digital infrastructure progress in Qatar

	Index	Rank	Year
1	E-Government Index	66\193	2020
2	E- Participation Index	77\193	2020
3	Network readiness Index (NRI)	38\134	2020
4	ICT Development Index	39\170	2017
5	Global Innovation Index (GII)	70\131	2020
6	DARE INDEX	1st	2020

Source: Planning and Statistics Authority & Ministry of Transport and Communication

In this regard, many technological achievements have been made, top of which are the following:

1. Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP)¹

QSTP is part of a unique ecosystem that comprises a cluster of eight leading international and homegrown universities, primary and secondary schools, research centers and policy institutes, various scholastic and community-focused entities, and much more. This unique ecosystem is designed to leverage synergies across disciplines and sectors to bring new technologies, matured in Qatar, into the global marketplace. Within the framework of the QSTP, significant achievements have been made aimed at transforming Qatar into a global hub for technological innovation.

- Over 50 companies, including 20 multinational companies currently based at QSTP.
- 31 innovative products developed and commercialized for the Qatari market through investments and incubation opportunities supported by QSTP.
- 22 Qatari startups all with a tech-focus, incubated at QSTP.
- 115 investments made by QSTP in regional companies through its partnership with Silicon Valley-based venture fund 500 Startups.
- Over 5,000 people have worked at QSTP-based companies since 2008.
- Over 1000 participants in QSTP's innovation programs since 2008.
- 1.2 billion QAR invested in research, development, and innovation activities by international companies registered at QSTP.

2. Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)²

The Qatar Foundation (QF) established Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) in 2006 as part of its ongoing commitment to establish Qatar as a knowledge-based economy. QF views research as essential to national and regional growth, as the means to diversify the nation's economy, enhance educational offerings and develop areas that affect the community, such as health and environment. Qatar National Research Fund's mission is to advance knowledge and education by supporting original, competitively selected research in all fields of sciences, with emphasis on, Energy and Environment, Computer Sciences and ICT, Health and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities.

3. Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Strategy 2030³

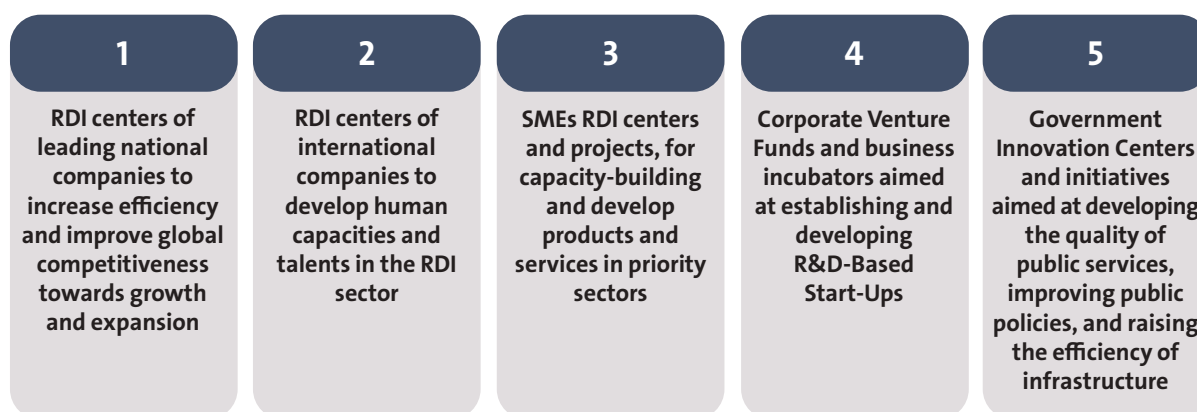
Qatar Research, Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council, established in 2018, has prepared the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Strategy as a new chapter of Qatar's national consensus, and an important step in the national to further its national research, development and innovation agenda. QRDI Council was formed from a prominent elite that includes a number of local and international experts and leaders from government agencies, academic and research institutions, and the business sector. The Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development hosted the work of the Council and its General Secretariat until the completion of the tasks assigned to it. QRDI Strategy 2030 included five main areas of strategic importance, through which the research, development and innovation system can have a locally significant impact and make a globally recognized contribution. The national priority areas were identified as energy, health, resource sustainability, society, and digital technology. QRDI Strategy 2030 seeks to achieve its goals by expanding the establishment and development of the following:

(1) <https://qstp.org.qa/ar/>

(2) <https://tdv.motc.gov.qa/ar/Research-and-Development/Qatar-National-Research-Fund>

(3) <https://www.motc.gov.qa/ar/documents/document/qatar-digital-government-2020-strategy-%E2%80%93-executive-summary>

Figure 17.2: QRDI Strategy 2030 Objectives



4. Qatar’s National Artificial Intelligence Strategy⁴

Qatar’s National Artificial Intelligence Strategy has prioritized focus on based on six pillars: education, data access, employment, business, research, and ethics. It envisions two roles for Qatar:

- First: Qatar must become capable of producing world class AI applications in areas of national interest and have a business environment enabling the use AI as a driver for innovation.
- Second: Qatar must be an efficient consumer of AI, with a properly educated citizenry, sound laws, and ethical guidelines. The strategy would be a powerful technological enabler for the Qatar National Vision 2030. By investing in AI education and homegrown AI solutions, the effort to ground the economy on knowledge capital can be accelerated. Similarly, developing an endogenous AI-based capacity for promoting transportation efficiency can help reduce pollution and foster environmental development.

5. Qatar University Research

Qatar University (QU) has prepared a roadmap for scientific research under the title “Research Development for Future of Qatar 2014-2019”. Qatar University’s Research Lab has been awarded accreditation status from the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). This accreditation underlines QU commitment to world-class research, as well as its adherence to the highest levels of international best practice in all its research processes and lab systems and procedures. QU also established the Biomedical Research Center, which is a multidisciplinary center that leverages the infrastructure and human resources at Qatar University and the growing network of centers interested in biomedical research in the State of Qatar.

6. Hamad Medical Corporation Research

The Medical Research Center (MRC) at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) was established in 1998 as a world-class facility dedicated to supporting high-quality innovative research in Qatar. MRC vision is to gain international recognition to become a reputable international research center, with the results of research to be translated into tangible and measurable improvements in healthcare services. Hamad Medical Corporation continues its efforts in research aimed at discovering new knowledge and adopting global standards for patient care. It also brings together the most prominent and brightest figures in this field to collaborate in conducting advanced research in the priority areas for Qatar and a source of interest in daily practices.

(4) <https://hukoomi.gov.qa/en/article/qatars-national-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

The size of domestic spending on R&D reached about 0.5% of GDP in 2018, placing Qatar third among GCC countries. Thus, the proportion of spending on R&D has increased to 48.7% compared to 2015. The government aims to spend About 2.7% of the annual budget on research and development.⁵

17.6.1: Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements between countries, by type of cooperation

In the field of information and communication technology, Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, has signed 8 international agreements as follows:

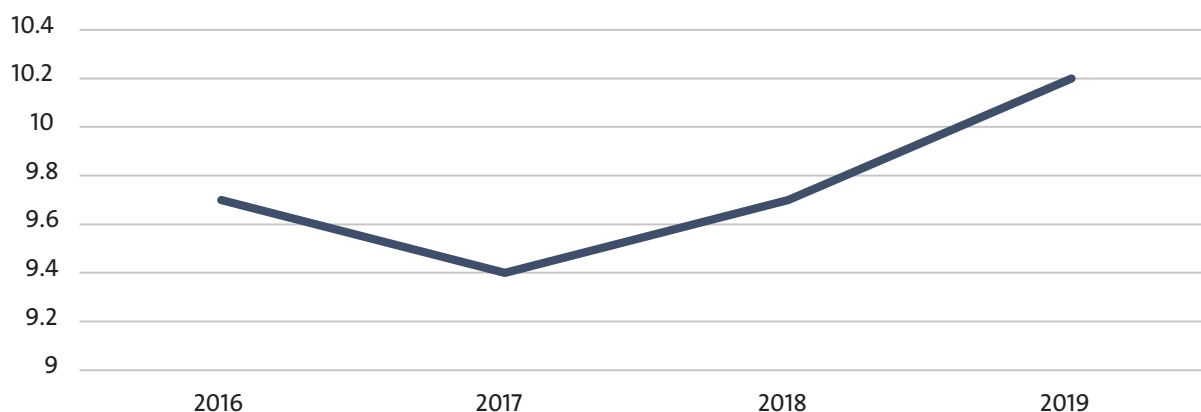
- MoU for ICT Collaboration between Qatar and Singapore signed in October 2021.
- MoU for ICT Collaboration between Qatar and Japan signed on 20 February 2015.
- MoU for ICT Collaboration between Qatar and India signed in on 22 May 2015.
- MoU for ICT Collaboration between Qatar and Tunisia signed on 9 December 2015.
- MoU for ICT Collaboration between Qatar and Turkey signed on 18 December 2017.
- MoU for ICT Collaboration between Qatar and South Korea in 2015 but has not been activated.
- A Letter of Intent on cybersecurity cooperation was signed between the governments of Qatar USA on 30 January 2018, in Washington.
- A Letter of Intent signed by MoTC and the Department of Commerce on the US-Qatar Collaboration Platform.

17.6.2: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

Regarding Qatar residents' subscriptions to fixed broadband internet, Figure (17.3) shows a significant development in this area, as the number of users increased from 9.7 per 100 inhabitants in 2016 to 20.2 in 2019.

(5) https://www.psa.gov.qa/en/statistics/Statistical%20Releases/Social/RAndD/2018/RD_Qatar_2018_En.pdf

Figure (17.3) Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (2016-2019)



Source: Planning and Statistics Authority

It should be noted that the infrastructure of the fixed network is of high quality, which is currently five times as it was in 2019. The coverage of the mobile network is currently about 100%. ⁶Telecom service providers have been directed to deal with the requirements of a significant increase in internet use during the COVID-19 pandemic as many people work from home, and thanks to the efforts of the MoTC and the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), telecom operators have doubled the speed of internet for existing residential customers and doubled the mobile data for residential and business customers, free of additional charges. Also, they have introduced new packages to connect more customers to the internet services in order to facilitate remote operation, while maintaining the quality of services and without additional financial fees.

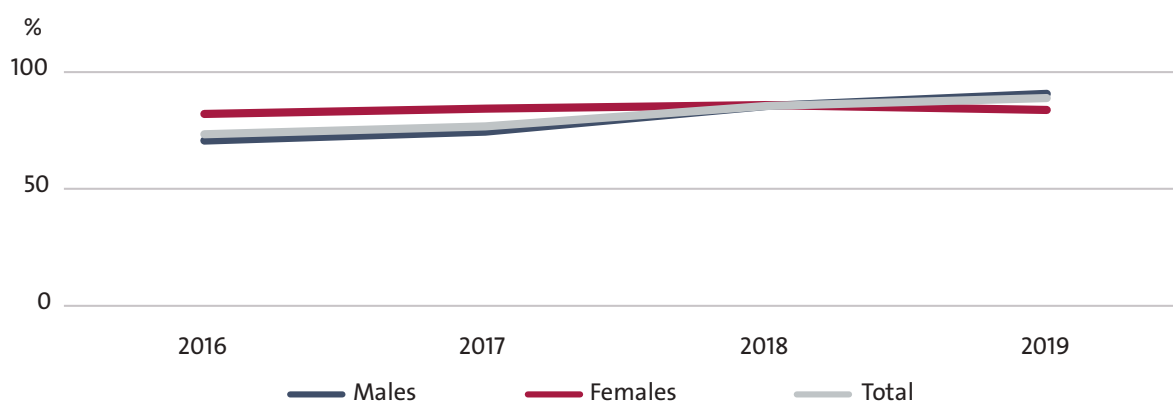
17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Figure (17.4) indicates the increased number of Internet users, which reached about 89% of the total population in 2019. The number of male network users increased from 70.7% in 2016 to about 91% in 2019. The gender parity index indicates that females may have surpassed males in using this network from 2016 to 2018. It is evident that the population of Qatar uses the Internet in many fields. It should be noted that internet usage has increased in light of the COVID-19 pandemic due to distance learning and communication inside and outside Qatar. It is expected that internet usage will increase to 100% for those in the age group of 4 years and above before 2030.

Recent figures indicate that Qatar has ranked number one globally in the rate of internet adoption among the total population with a percentage reaching 99%, according to “The Global State of Digital 2021” report released by Hootsuite Organization.

(6) MoTC

Figure (17.4) Proportion of individuals using the Internet by gender (2016-2019)



Source: Planning and Statistics Authority

Third: Qatar's contribution to building the capacities of developing countries

17.17.1: Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships

In order to build the capacities of developing countries and help them achieve the goals of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Qatar's institutions undertake many initiatives, including:

1. Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)⁷: The State of Qatar continues its support initiatives to alleviate suffering of stricken peoples and strengthening the development sectors in developing countries. Whether through targeting access to healthcare services for underprivileged and deprived communities, providing for educational facilities and resources for out-of-school children, or building necessary infrastructure such as roads, water and sanitation networks, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) projects have helped millions of people around the world overcome basic barriers to human needs and essential freedoms. This came as part of its mandate, and in line with the goals of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2018, the Qatar Fund for Development funded several projects in the sectors of education, health, and economic empowerment with about \$ 585 million in more than 70 countries.
2. Silatech: In order to contribute to the capacity-building of low- and middle-income countries, Qatar runs the Silatech Foundation, which is an international, social, non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Qatar. Silatech works to connect young people, wherever they are, to the jobs and resources they need in order to establish and develop successful enterprises. In order to do so, it seeks to provide broad and innovative solutions in the employment sector by working with local, regional and international partners. The Foundation promotes large-scale job creation, entrepreneurship, access to capital and markets, and youth engagement in economic development, thereby helping to achieve several of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
3. Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI)⁸: The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies offers a wide variety of scholarships annually to attract academically qualified students from within and outside the State of Qatar. The scholarships vary, some awarded on the basis of merit and academic competition, while others are based on financial need.

(7) file:///G:/Goal%2017/QFFD_AnnualReport_Ar.pdf

(8) https://www.dohainstitute.edu.qa/AR/Prospective_Students/Admissions/Pages/Scholarships.aspx

4. Qatar University: QU offers a large number of scholarships to a large number of resident and non-resident students in all branches of the university's departments. QU also runs the Arabic for Non-Native Speakers Center, and within the framework of this project it offers a number of scholarships to foreign students who wish to learn Arabic.
5. Educate A Child (EAC): ⁹ EAC program targets hard-to-reach marginalized children; in particular children in poverty; those who face social or cultural barriers to education; and those in crisis and conflict-affected environments. EAC program will be able to contribute to enabling every child to have access to quality education, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This program aims to educate 61 million out-of-school children at the primary level.
6. Education Above All (EAA): ¹⁰ EAA is a global initiative founded in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser in the State of Qatar. EAA works to provide educational opportunities for children in societies suffering from poverty and conflict.

Fourth: Trade

International trade is a powerful enabler of economic development. Empirical literature supports this with strong evidence that increased participation in international trade can spur economic growth, which itself is a necessary condition for broader development outcomes to be realized. By connecting global markets to developing-country producers and consumers, trade – both through exports and imports – provides a critical channel for the flow of finance, technology and services needed to further improve productive capacity in agriculture, industry, services, and most of SDGs. In the State of Qatar, foreign trade represented by exports and imports plays a pivotal role in the path of economic and social development. As exports of goods and services during the period 2015-2020 represented an average of 51% of the total GDP.

Figures (17.5) and (17.6) indicate that the volume of trade exchange between Qatar and its trading partners in terms of values and quantities during the period 2016-2020 has changed as a result of several factors, the most important of which are: the change in energy prices, change in prices of imported goods, together with the change in global demand on Qatar's exports of hydrocarbon products and manufacturing. As for exports for the period (2016-2020), Figure (17.5) shows that the category of Asian countries excluding Arab countries is Qatar's top trading partner, followed by the countries of the European Union. Regarding imports for the period (2016-2020), Figure (17.6) indicates that the top trading partner is the Asian countries, followed by the European Union countries. The trade balance recorded a surplus in favour of the State of Qatar in the period (2015-2020), as shown in Table (17.4).

**Table (17.4) Total exports, imports and annual merchandise trade balance 2015-2020
(million US dollars)**

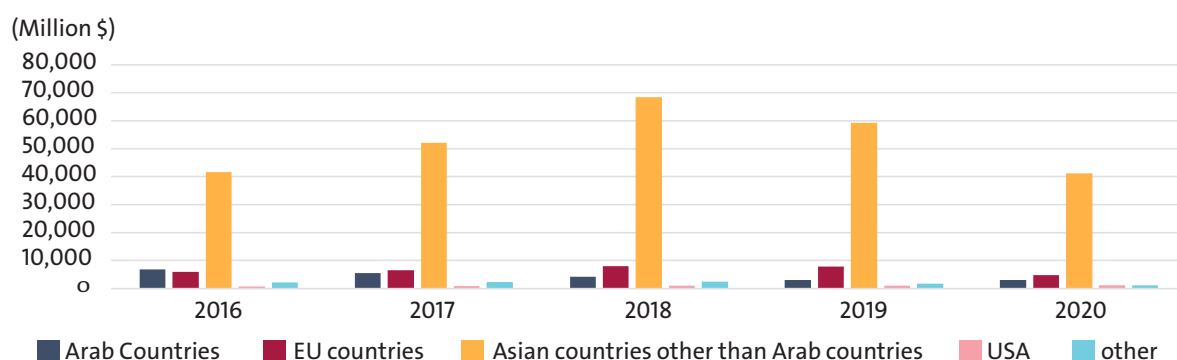
Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Imports	32,611	32,060	29,896	31,696	29,178	25,835
Total exports	77,090	57,309	67,498	84,294	72,935	51,504
Trade balance	44,479	25,249	37,602	52,598	43,757	25,669

Source: Qatar Central Bank

(9) <https://educationaboveall.org/ar/#!/programme/educate-a-child>

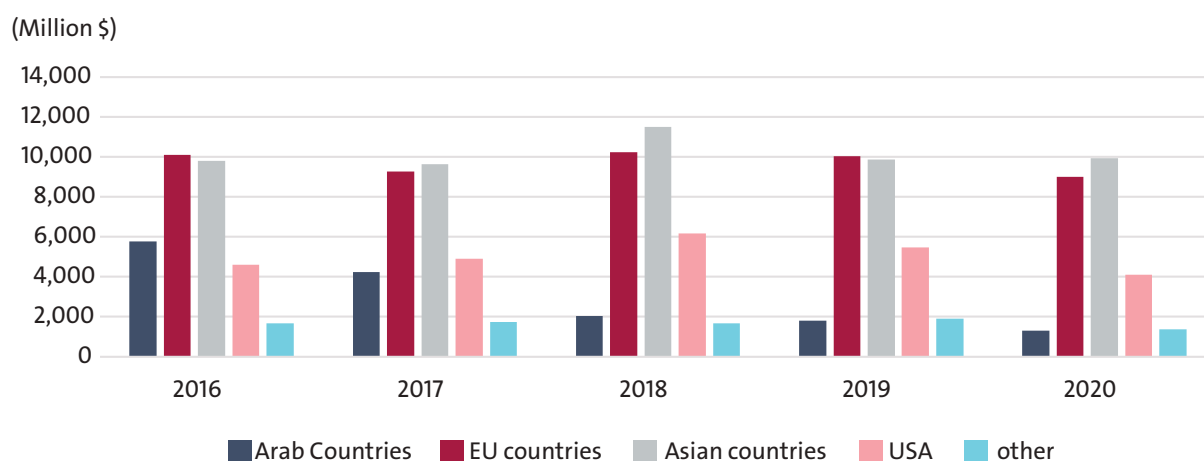
(10) <https://educationaboveall.org/ar/#!/about/1>

Figure (17.5) Statistics of Qatari exports by economic regions (main country of destination)



Source: Planning and Statistics Authority

Figure (17.6) Statistics of Qatari imports by economic regions (main country of origin)



Source: Planning and Statistics Authority

Fifth: General Issues

Responding to COVID-19 pandemic

In March 2020, the State of Qatar developed an integrated action plan to confront the COVID-19 pandemic aimed to prepare for, monitor, respond to and recover from any COVID-19 outbreak. It also developed an electronic platform to display all virus-related information¹¹, including how many COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered, how many people were tested, number of active cases, deaths, people currently under acute hospital care, people currently in ICU, and recovered patients, as well as restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, information on the mental health of the population and on protection from pandemic infection.¹²

On the level of partnership in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic, Qatar affirmed its commitment to support the work of the United Nations and the importance of international cooperation to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the unilateral measures it is facing that impede international cooperation and coordination under the umbrella of international and regional organizations. Qatar stressed the need to address various dimensions in the framework of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, calling for the response to be integrated and coordinated and

(11) <https://www.moph.gov.qa/Style%20Library/MOPH/Videos/COVID-19%20REPORT%20WEB.pdf>

(12) <https://COVID19.moph.gov.qa/AR/Pages/default.aspx>

to be based on a peacekeeping perspective. This came in a statement delivered by HE the State of Qatar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani before the UN Security Council, which held a virtual meeting in April 2021 on "Pandemics and the Challenges of Sustaining Peace." In another statement, Her Excellency added that the State of Qatar has allocated \$20m to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, in addition to \$10m from the Qatar Fund for Development as a basic contribution to support WHO's Thirteenth General Programme. She also expressed her pride at Qatar's humanitarian initiative, launched in April 2021, to raise \$100 million to provide COVID-19 vaccines for the most vulnerable groups. The initiative was launched cooperation with Qatar Red Crescent (QRCS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in order to improve access to tools that will combat the Coronavirus in countries most in need. Her Excellency stressed on the importance of adhering to the Political Declaration on Equitable Global Access to COVID-19 Vaccines, which 181 countries joined.

Institutional Actions for VNR Preparation

Figure (17.7) Governance Framework for the Preparation of Qatar VNR 2021

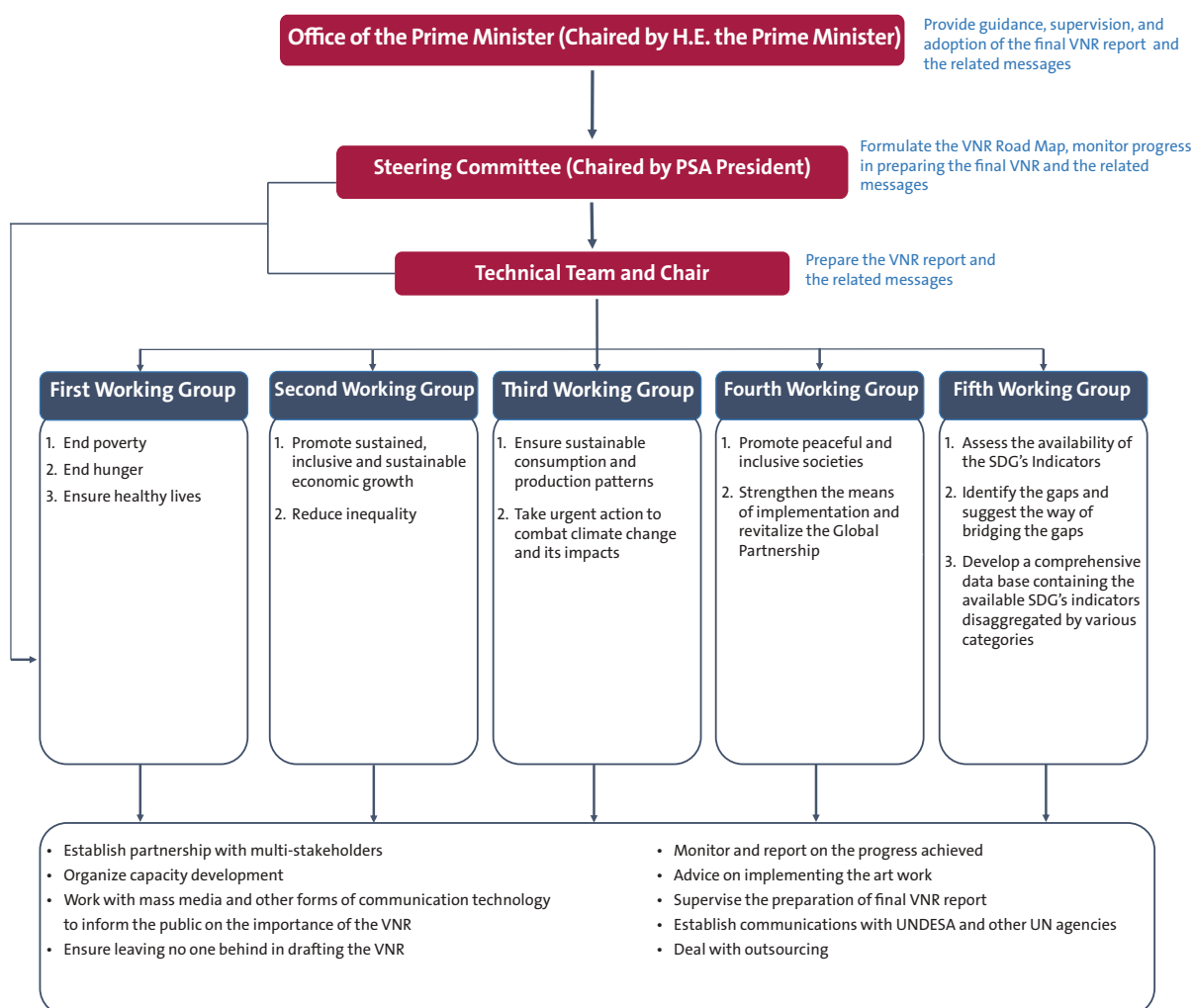


Figure (17.7) shows the institutional actions followed by the Planning and Statistics Authority in preparing for Qatar's Voluntary National Review 2021. The chart also shows the roles played by the related parties. It also indicates some of the steps that were followed in establishing partnerships with stakeholders in the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, universities, research centres and United Nations agencies.

Table (17.5) List of public and private sector partners who contributed to the preparation of VNR 2021

Selected SDGs for VNR 2021	National entities who contribute to the preparation of VNR 2021
SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour & Social Affairs – Qatar Foundation for Social Work – Doha Institute for Graduate Studies – Planning and Statistics Authority – Ministry of Finance – Qatar Central Bank – The National Human Rights Committee – Qatar Red Crescent – Zakat Fund
SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Municipality and Environment – Ministry of Commerce and Industry – Doha Institute for Graduate Studies – Supreme Committee for Crisis Management – Planning and Statistics Authority – Permanent Population Committee – Qatar Red Crescent – Zakat Fund – Ministry of Transportation and Communications
SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Public Health – Qatar Foundation for Social Work – Planning and Statistics Authority – Ministry of Transportation and Communications – Qatar Central Bank – Permanent Population Committee
SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour & Social Affairs – Planning and Statistics Authority – Permanent Population Committee – Ministry of Transportation and Communications – Qatar Central Bank – Qatar University – Qatar Foundation
SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour & Social Affairs – Qatar Foundation for Social Work – National Human Rights Committee – Planning and Statistics Authority – Permanent Population Committee – Qatar Central Bank – Ministry of Interior

Selected SDGs for VNR 2021	National entities who contribute to the preparation of VNR 2021
SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Municipality and Environment – Ministry of Commerce and Industry – Planning and Statistics Authority – Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (KAHRAMA) – Qatar Chamber – Qatar Foundation – Qatar Petroleum
SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Municipality and Environment – Qatar Foundation – Qatar University – Qatar Petroleum – Planning and Statistics Authority – Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (KAHRAMA) – Ministry of Public Health – Qatar Chamber
SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour & Social Affairs – National Human Rights Committee – Administrative Control and Transparency Authority – Planning and Statistics Authority – Permanent Population Committee – Audit Bureau – Ministry of Justice – Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center

Selected SDGs for VNR 2021	National entities who contribute to the preparation of VNR 2021
SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Qatar Research, Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council – Ministry of Transportation and Communications – Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and related research centers – Qatar Development Bank – Qatar Library – Qatar Museums – Qatar Foundation for Social Work – Qatar Charity – Ministry of Finance – Qatar Central Bank – Qatar Red Crescent – Zakat Fund – Ministry of Transportation and Communications – Qatar University – Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy

Table No. (17.5) shows the list of entities that contributed to the preparation of VNR 2021 in accordance with The goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It consists of representatives from the private and government sectors, civil society organizations, universities, research centers, and so on.

Qatar's partnership with UN agencies

Qatar has and continues to make generous financial contributions to various UN bodies and entities, aimed at supporting projects in the areas of development and humanitarian aid. Exemplifying this, on the side-lines of the 2018 Doha Forum HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and HE the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres signed several agreements demonstrating Qatar's active role in achieving international peace, security and sustainable development.

The agreements included a \$500 million (QAR 1.82 billion) pledge to various UN programmes and the establishment of four new UN offices in Doha. The agreement further pledged annual support to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Qatar is working on the following:

- Promote interfaith dialogue, and support the Alliance of Civilizations.
- Mediate in international conflicts.
- Protect human rights inside and outside Qatar.
- Provide financial contributions to more than 41 United Nations bodies.

<https://www.gco.gov.qa/ar/focus/qatar-united-nations>

In 2021, The State of Qatar has been unanimously elected to membership of several UN institutions, namely:

1. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) of ECOSOC
2. The Executive Board of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
3. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
4. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Currently, the State of Qatar hosts offices for United Nations agencies, namely: UNICEF, UNESCO Regional Office for GCC States, ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNOCT and OHCHR.

Partnerships, conferences and agreements established by the State of Qatar

International partnerships established by the State of Qatar:

- Qatar's partnership with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)
- Qatar's partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Qatar's partnership with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
- Partnership with the World Health Organization
- Partnership agreement with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- Qatari partnership in the field of climate change
- Partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - Geneva
- Qatar's partnership with the United Nations to enhance the role of preventive diplomacy in resolving conflicts

International and regional conferences organized by the State of Qatar periodically

Table (17.6): International and regional conferences organized by the State of Qatar periodically

Conference Name	Topic	Periodicity
Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference	The conference is intended to offer a wide-ranging overview of the hot issues in the region and around the world.	Annually
Doha Forum	A platform for global dialogue on critical challenges facing our world, and promotes the interchange of ideas, discourse, policy making, and action-oriented recommendations.	Annually
Doha International Conference on Interfaith Dialogue	The conference reflects Qatar's orientations towards world peace, positive dialogue between religions and civilizations, building bridges, and strengthening interfaith rapprochement and understanding.	Every 2 year
U.S.-Islamic World Forum.	The forum works to bring the United States and the Islamic world closer together over various issues, through positive dialogue.	Every 2 year

The State of Qatar has concluded 17 multilateral agreements and 180 bilateral agreements.

Table (17.7) Alignment of the sectors of NDS-2 (2018-2022) with the goals of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Sectors of NDS-2 (2018-2022)	Goals of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Economic Diversification & Private Sector Growth	  
Environmental Sustainability, Natural Resources and Economic Infrastructure	         
Education and Training	 
Healthcare	 
Social Protection	    
Public Safety and Public Security	   
Culture and Sports	   
International Technical Cooperation	  
Financial Management, Service Delivery, and Institutional Development	 
Population, Workforce and Sustainable Development	 

Table (17.7) shows the alignment between the SDGs and the sectors of NDS-2 (2018-2022). According to this procedure, the aforementioned SDGs are part of the projects of NDS-2 (2018-2022). Thus, the NDS implementation is carried out through quarterly follow-up reports that are submitted by the relevant ministries and government agencies to the Planning and Statistics Authority, which tracks progress in implementing the goals and objectives in accordance with the indicators adopted within the framework of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development.

Sixth: Data, Monitoring and Accountability

17.18.1: Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Figure (17.8) Level of SDGs indicators availability in Qatar, 2019

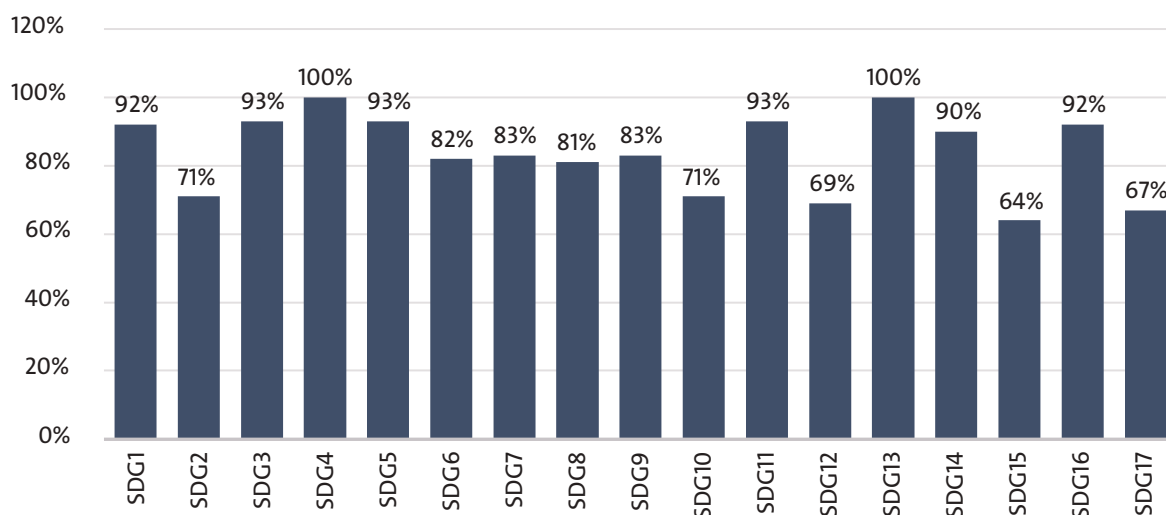


Figure 17.8 indicates the availability of SDGs indicators in 2019 by each SDG. It should be noted that the Planning and Statistics Authority prepares the aforementioned indicators, publishes them on its website, and supplies them to the database of the United Nations Statistics Division. Such indicators are used to monitor progress towards the implementation of goals and targets.

17.18.2: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

According to Law No. (2) of 2011, the Planning and Statistics Authority is the official body in Qatar concerned with collecting, publishing and analyzing official statistics, and it is the official source for these statistics. Some ministries, government agencies and the Qatar Central Bank also contribute to the production of official statistics periodically and supply them to the Planning and Statistics Authority.

17.18.3: Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding

The Planning and Statistics Authority adopts an annual plan to produce official statistics from various sources, such as household surveys, business establishment surveys, administrative records, and population and economic censuses. It also publishes an annual calendar of statistical outputs on its website. The data produced by PSA is published classified by gender, age and geographical area, especially by thematic classifications related to women, children, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, and so on.

The State of Qatar spends from the annual budget on all statistical activities carried out in the country. Partners can obtain relevant statistical data and services at no cost.

National statistical capacities to support the achievement of SDGs 2030:

- Statistical data are collected in accordance with the basic principles of official statistics approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- Official statistics in Qatar are produced according to the concepts, standards and classifications approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission, foremost among which are the quality standards for official statistics, and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).
- After adopting the Sustainable Development Agenda in 2015, PSA joined the official statistics transformation project in order to modernize the statistical system and support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under this project, many national and regional activities were carried out. Doha Declaration on Modernization of Official Statistics was issued on 5 November 2019 in support of the official statistics agenda.
- In light of COVID-19, PSA used many innovative methods of data collection, including the Internet, call centers, administrative records and social media, while maintaining the confidentiality of the data.
- PSA aims to increase the production of high-quality statistical data on the economic, social and environmental aspects, classified by many variables, and to provide them for the formulation of policies related to NDS-3.
- PSA seeks to build national capacities and use new sources of official statistics.
- The Statistics Advisory Committee aims to integrate sectoral statistics into the National Statistical System.
- 100% civil registration and vital statistics system in Qatar (births, deaths, marriages and divorce), and also population and housing registry is 100%.
- The State of Qatar provides the database of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with indicators on a regular basis.

17.19.1: Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

The State of Qatar joined the Transformation Project in Official Statistics in order to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This project includes many statistical activities aimed at building the capacities of Qatari statisticians and enabling them to contribute to modernizing the national statistical system.

17.19.2: Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration

The State of Qatar has carried out a number of populations, housing and establishments censuses in the years: 1986, 1997, 2004, 2010, 2015, as well as the most recently the 2020 Census.

Selected indicators of progress in SDGs 2030

SDG	National Indicators	اتجاه
17.1	17.1.1: Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	↑
17.2	17.2.1: Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)	↑
17.3	17.3.2: Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	↗
17.6	17.6.1: Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation	↑
	17.6.2: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	↑
17.8	17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet	↑
17.17	17.17.1: Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships	✓
17.18	17.18.1: Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	↑
	17.18.2: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	↑
	17.18.3: Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding	↑
17.19	17.19.1: Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries	...
	17.19.2: Number of censuses carried out by the State of Qatar, achieving 100% of the registration of births and deaths	↑
17.20	Qatar readiness to host FIFA World Cup 2022	↑
Meanings of the symbols: (increasing, ↑ relatively increasing, ↗ in force ✓, ... cases do not exist)		

Seventh: Sports and hosting FIFA World Cup 2022¹³

In many international forums, sport has proven to be an important enabler of sustainable development in all dimensions. From this standpoint, the State of Qatar has recognized the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives. Harnessing this tremendous potential of sport, Qatar designated a national day for sport in which all members of the society interact with each other.¹⁴



FIFA World Cup, scheduled to take place in Qatar from 21 November to 18 December 2022, is considered one of the most important international partnerships and one of the most important engines of sustainable development. As well, it will have a high value, and will provide a vital opportunity for Qatar and the region to welcome and closely connect with billions of people from across the globe who will participate or witness this great event. An opportunity for them to showcase their unique Arab identity and national culture, in order to build bridges of love and peace and promote tolerance, respect and understanding between civilizations. It will be an event for hospitality and interaction with participants from across the globe.

Our vision for the FIFA World Cup 2022™ is to use the power of football to open the door to a world of amazing experiences. This entails showcasing Qatar's unique identity through a FIFA World Cup™ that connects people in a shared celebration of football, intercultural understanding and new opportunities for growth and development. This event will build a positive legacy on the future of the World Cup and sports in general, thanks to planning and implementation based on the idea that generations to come should find our shared planet a greener, more equitable place, free from discrimination and full of opportunities for all. In this context, in March 2021, the Qatar Olympic Committee announced its genuine desire to undertake a comprehensive Gender Equality Review in Qatari sport, by creating clear pathways for women to move into leadership positions. Our sustainability framework includes our goals, policy commitments, priority material topics and strategic objectives organized according to five pillars: human, social, economic, environmental and governance. These framework pillars align with the three dimensions of sustainability and the Economic, Social, Environmental and Human Pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Pillars of the FIFA World Cup 2022 Strategy

1. As for the human pillar; i.e. Developing human capital and safeguarding workers' rights, the State of Qatar has committed to safeguarding the rights and welfare of workers engaged on FIFA World Cup 2022™ sites and promoting their rights, leaving a legacy of world-class standards and practices for workers in Qatar and internationally. We also aim to leverage the unique platform provided by the FIFA World Cup 2022™ to develop a capable and motivated workforce and empower young people across the region. This aligns with SDG 3 of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, i.e. "Ensure decent working and living conditions and

(13) https://www.qatar2022.qa/sites/default/files/docs/FWC-2022-Executive-Summary_AR.pdf

(14) <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/role-sport-achieving-sustainable-development-goals>

fair recruitment for workers; promote decent working and living conditions for workers, and build local expertise and foster the development of the sports and events industries in Qatar and the Arab region.

2. As for the social pillar related to providing an inclusive tournament experience, we will deliver an inclusive FIFA World Cup 2022™ tournament experience that is welcoming, safe and accessible to all. Through this, we will leave a legacy of cultural understanding, accessible and distinguished infrastructure.
3. As for the economic pillar related to “catalyzing economic development”, We aim to catalyze economic growth and diversification in Qatar and the region and provide innovation opportunities. We also aim to facilitate the development of tournament sites, related infrastructure and services that enable future events, attract new business ventures and address relevant community needs. This aligns with SDGs 8, 9, 11, 12 and 16 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, related to enabling local and regional companies to use sites and assets, after the end of the tournament.
4. As for the environmental pillar related to “Delivering world-class environmental solutions”, We are committed to delivering a fully carbon-neutral FIFA World Cup™ and aim to set a benchmark for environmental stewardship by implementing leading sustainable building standards, waste and water management practices and low emission solutions. Through our work, we will leave a legacy of world-class environmental management expertise, technologies, businesses and standards in Qatar and the region. This is aligned with many of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; such as SDG3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all), SDG 6 (Ensure access to water and sanitation for all), SDG 7 (Ensure access to sustainable and modern energy), SDG 11 (Strengthen waste management), and SDG 12 (rationalizing the use of Water and its protection during construction).
5. As for the governance pillar related to “setting an example of good governance and ethical business practices”. In 2017, the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy launched an initiative to conduct political experiments using behavioral economics and psychology to urge people to choose behaviors that fight bribery and corruption, make more sustainable options, and improve outcomes in public policy areas, including education, worker welfare, environmental sustainability and lifestyles and health, in line with the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Qatar is continuing its preparations to host the World Cup, which will leave a large and sustainable cultural legacy in the human and social structures, which is represented in deepening the understanding that sport contributes to achieving development, peace and national capabilities, and achieving interaction between peoples and civilizations. It will also leave a global legacy of expertise in environmental management, advanced technologies, business, high standards, and ensuring healthy lifestyles and social inclusion for all.

Conclusion and Steps Forward

This report describes the work accomplished, progress and challenges in the State of Qatar over the past four years in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Planning and Statistics Authority adopted a participatory methodology in preparing the report, as it consulted many ministries, institutions, governmental and non-governmental bodies and civil society organizations. It also worked on producing national indicators for sustainable development goals and targets, striving towards building an integrated modern statistical system that enhances national development monitoring, follow-up and evaluation. The report covered the goals and targets achieved, the main messages and lessons learned from each goal, providing the reader with an overview of the most important issues, achievements and challenges. Hence, the preparation of this report is also considered one of the milestones on the road towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as the State of Qatar is committed and confident to achieve this agenda by 2030 and continues to work towards the realization of more ambitious goals, through nonstop efforts and coherent, flexible and comprehensive approach.

The State of Qatar has already succeeded in aligning the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the national development pillars set forth in the Qatar National Vision 2030, and NDS-1 (2011-2016) and NDS-2 (2018-2022), and it is keen to integrate this trend into NDS-3 (2023-2027). The State of Qatar continues to focus on achieving sustainable results in all its development policy priorities through cooperation and partnership with the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, universities and research centers.

This report was completed under exceptional circumstances of the outbreak of (COVID-19) pandemic all over the world and the repercussions resulting from the measures taken to contain its spread, as this pandemic forced most countries of the world to implement preventive measures and to halt cultural, social and economic activities, creating economic, social and psychological crises that affected various societies.

The State of Qatar, among other countries, faced enormous challenges as it was affected by the repercussions of the global closure due to this pandemic. However, it succeeded to a large extent in aptly confronting this virus based on three main pillars: the first is to protect citizens and residents in Qatar and ensure the resilience of the health care system, the second is to ensure that the impact on the economy and society is at the lowest level, and the third is that Qatar is committed to its international responsibilities by standing with other countries that need help, while providing the necessary vaccines at the appropriate time.

The report shows that Qatar has achieved most of the goals concerned with SDGs, the most important of which is to end poverty in all its forms and types, as Qatar is completely free from the phenomenon of extreme poverty, abject poverty, absolute poverty and multi-dimensional deprivation. The development policymakers in Qatar early realized that ending poverty does not only mean policies directed at protecting against income poverty alone, but also achieving social justice and integrating vulnerable groups into society through building an effective social protection

system for all Qataris, that safeguards their civil rights, values their effective participation in the development of society, to ensure that no one is left behind.

In the same vein, the report shows that achieving food security is an issue that's at the forefront of Qatar's strategic priorities, as the country has begun to develop an advanced system for vegetation plants, animal and fish production through which it works to enhance self-sufficiency and food security for its population. This can be achieved by investing in food production locally and internationally, ensuring the sustainability of food production systems, and increasing productivity. Qatar is also working to align the objectives of the Natural Resource Management Sector related to food security in The Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 with the targets of SDG 2 that aims to achieve optimal use of natural resources, including food production resources, and their sustainability for the population of Qatar. Based upon its belief in the need to work to change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, Qatar – in its strategic goals that it drew in the Energy, Water, Food And Waste Management Sectors – followed the approach of diversifying the production base, and promoting the culture of consumption rationalization and responsible consumption as an integral part of the society's life style, leading to building balanced consumption pattern.

Furthermore, the report shows that the State of Qatar has made great achievements aimed to establish an integrated health care system that provides high-quality services through public and private health institutions, recording outstanding results in preventive care in various fields, including early detection of diseases, encouraging the public to practice healthy behaviors, and improving transparency in terms of patients' rights and responsibilities. As a result, the State of Qatar has achieved this target set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also considered one of the countries that has an advanced health system at the preventive and curative level, while building clear plans to prepare and respond to health emergencies and epidemics through employing highly trained health cadres and health institutions equipped with all the required supplies.

In another context, Qatar attaches great importance to empowering and promoting social, economic and political inclusion for all. This is embodied in NDS-1 (2018-2022) through its effective projects. The State of Qatar has a host of legislation and laws and has ratified many international instruments to promote inclusion and preserve the rights of individuals. The State of Qatar is keen to provide humanitarian and development assistance to needy countries, thus contributing to the achievement of the global SDGs 2030. It is also committed to the principles of the United Nations Charter, especially the principle of cooperation and partnership.

The State of Qatar attaches great importance to partnership in many fields, including the field of internal and external investment and innovative financing. It also plays an important role in international alliances and in the United Nations system and its specialized agencies. The Global Vaccine Alliance is a vivid example of the partnership that the whole world needs to address the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a form of cooperation that requires expansion to include the wide spectrum of issues addressed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Seeking the achievement of SDG Target of providing full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men by 2030, the labor market policies in the State of Qatar have witnessed tangible developments during the past five years, most notably the amendment of the Labor Law and the regulatory measures related to the labor market that resulted in the replacement of the sponsorship system with an employment contract that guarantees the rights of workers, a minimum wage for workers and domestic workers supported by the Wage Protection System, as well as providing greater protection for workers through occupational health and safety measures. During facing the COVID-19 pandemic, Qatar developed a national action plan aimed to minimize the impact of the disease and mitigate the effects on the people of Qatar, enable society to continue to function as normally as possible during and after the pandemic, minimize and mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic. This action plan was embodied among other interventions in a set of general precautionary measures and the provision of a package of financial incentives.

The State of Qatar has attached great importance to addressing the phenomenon of climate change, in line with its National Vision 2030. This was mirrored in its first and second strategic plans to implement this vision. Qatar is one of the pioneer countries in dealing with climate change, as it is among the first countries to ratify the relevant international agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1996. One of Qatar's most prominent efforts in the field of climate change is the project of using compressed natural gas (CNG) as a fuel in the transport sector. It aims to develop CNG as an alternative fuel not only locally but also internationally through its export to many countries of the world, which contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions significantly locally and globally, which it helps in achieving SDGs globally. Qatar has implemented major projects that contribute to addressing the phenomenon of climate change. It should be noted that Qatar is moving forward in transforming its economic system from an oil-based economy to a Knowledge-based economy. This goal was included in the Qatar National Vision 2030 and NDS-2 (2018-2022), which adopted a plan for a more competitive, productive and diversified economy. In this context, an educational system was built based on three main guiding principles: quality, fairness, and efficiency. As well, the Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council was established in 2018 to place Qatar in a suitable position to diversify the economy and shift from an oil-based economy to a Knowledge-based economy by opening new economic horizons based on research, development and innovation, and expanding the participation of citizens and competencies in this transformation, especially since Qatar is aware that it must consolidate its position on the map of the new global economy and not be left behind.

In conclusion, the State of Qatar will rely on its pragmatic, comprehensive, sustainable, multifaceted and participatory approach to development in order to fulfill its obligations and achieve the ultimate goal of not leaving anyone behind. From this standpoint, the Voluntary National Report 2021 can be considered a contribution by the State of Qatar in highlighting the global progress made in achieving SDGs.



Goal 13

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