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Read in this issue:

- General features of the Third Population Policy of the State of Qatar (2024-2028): Premises and Principles.
- Main Article : A reading in the data of persons with disabilities in the State of Qatar
- Activities of the Technical Bureau of the Permanent Population Committee
- Reports & Studies
 - Planning and Statistics Authority. Qatar: Sustainable Development Goals 2020. November 2021.
 - Planning and Statistics Authority. Marriage and Divorce in the State of Qatar 2021. August 2022.
 - United Nations ESCWA - Between Now and 2030: A Statistical Overview of Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Region –Beirut, 2021.
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene: Demanding Greater Solidarity – New York, 2022.
 - United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals Report. New York, 2022.
 - United Nations – Department of Economic and Social Affairs - World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind in an Ageing World, New York, 2023.
 - UNICEF - Education in a Post-COVID World: Towards a Rapid Transformation - New York, March 2023.

Editorial



I am pleased to present to the reader the fifty-fourth issue of "Sukkan" magazine, whose first topic includes the general features of the Third Population Policy of the State of Qatar (2024-2028), especially the premises and principles, highlighting the strategic stands expressed in the constitution, in the speeches and directives of the country's political leadership, and in the laws, legislations and various programs of state agencies, all of which emphasize that the goals of sustainable human development are to improve the quality of life of the population, expand the choices of individuals and families, and improve their capabilities.

Among the most important references from which the Third Population Policy is based are: Qatar National Vision 2030, which aims to "transform Qatar by 2030 into an advanced country capable of achieving sustainable development and ensuring the continuation of a decent life for its people for generations to come"; Qatar National Development Strategy 2018-2022, which aspires to provide a better life for everyone living in the State of Qatar; the General Framework of the GCC Population Strategy 2013; and the Arab strategy for Population Planning. These are a frame of reference for the Arab countries in diagnosing their population status, guided by the directions and recommendations included in international charters and treaties, especially the treaties and conventions ratified by the State of Qatar. The Population Policy of the State of Qatar is also based on a set of principles derived from the Islamic Sharia and the values of Qatari society, especially those related to family, marriage, divorce and rights and duties of spouses and children. The Population Policy is further based on and the Qatari Constitution, mainly its articles on population issues related to family, education, health, work and others, in addition to the State political directives issued by His Highness Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on various issues related to population and development.

The main article in this issue provides an analytical reading of the data of the Population, Housing and Establishments Censuses 2010 and 2020 related to persons with disabilities in the State of Qatar, with the aim of achieving the maximum benefit. This data has been issued regularly by the Planning and Statistics Authority since the General Population and Housing Census conducted in March 1986 on disability and on those registered in disability centers by type of disability, sex, nationality and age group. It is part of household surveys that include multi-source general data based on the contribution of ministries and health authorities and centers in providing this data.

The article also aims to highlight the efforts of the State of Qatar to provide many services and medical care provided to persons with disabilities, aimed at promoting and protecting their rights, given that Qatar was one of the first countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008. In this regard, Qatar has made great strides to fully integrate persons with disabilities into society and participate in the development process. This has already been included in Qatar National Vision 2030, which stipulates achieving equality and justice for all groups and sectors of society.

Dr. Saleh M. Al Nabit

Chairman of the Permanent Population Committee

General Features of the Third Population Policy (2024-2028) of the State of Qatar (Premises and Principles)



Prepared by Dr. Yousuf Brik,
the Permanent Population Committee

In the previous issue No. (53) of "Sukkan" magazine, we shed light on the justifications for developing Qatar Third population policy (2024-2028), as one of the basic components of the general framework of this policy. In this issue, we will talk about the rest of the components included in this framework, namely:

1) Premises:



The population policy in the State of Qatar is based on the fact that people are the goal and means of development. The strategic positions expressed in the Constitution, in the speeches and directives of the country's political leadership, and in the laws, legislations and various programs of the State apparatus all affirm that the goals of sustainable human development are to improve the quality of life of the population, expand the choices of individuals and families and improve their capabilities. This would eventually lead to increasing their effective participation in the development of Qatari society in all economic, political, social, cultural and other fields. The most important references on which the Third Population Policy is based are:

• Qatar National Vision 2030:

Qatar National Vision 2030, which is the result of intensive efforts by officials from the public and private sectors, civil society organizations and some public figures, aims to "transform Qatar by 2030 into an advanced country capable of achieving sustainable development and ensuring the continuation of a decent life for its people generations to come". This vision is based on four pillars: human, social, economic and environmental. The theme of human development is "to develop the population of the State of Qatar so that they can build a prosperous society". The theme of social development is "building a just and secure society based on good



morals and social welfare, capable of dealing and interacting with other societies and playing an important role in the global partnership for development". In economic development, the theme is "developing a diversified and competitive national economy capable of meeting the needs of Qatar's citizens now and in the

future and securing a high standard of living". In environmental development, the theme is "to manage environment in a way that ensures harmony and consistency between economic and social development and environmental protection".

The vision is concerned with building "a modern educational system that keeps pace with modern international standards and is equivalent to the best educational systems in the world...". It provides opportunities for citizens to develop their abilities and understand their rights, encourages critical analytical thinking, innovation and creativity, and promotes social cohesion. The document also calls for "the development of an integrated health care system that provides high-quality preventive and curative health services managed according to the best international standards, and provides the current and future generations with a healthy life, and its facilities are available to all residents and at nominal fees". The document indicates that the State of Qatar will work to increase the effective participation of national labor, and to attract and retain the appropriate combination of skills, which requires the provision of appropriate incentives and the development of regulatory measures to preserve the rights of expatriate workers and ensure their safety. As for the social field, QNV2030 emphasizes "building the Qatari citizen who is able to deal competently and flexibly with the requirements of his/her time, and to maintain a strong and cohesive family that enjoys support, care and social protection". Women will have an active role in all aspects of life, especially in economic and political decision-making. "Qatar will provide security and stability for the population, to secure basic needs and to ensure equal opportunities for citizens. Qatar will also promote the spirit of tolerance and charity, and encourage constructive dialogue with and openness to other cultures in line with its Arab and Islamic identity". In the field of environment, QNV2030 calls for "balancing between



meeting the immediate needs and the requirements of preserving the environment" by raising awareness of the importance of preserving the environmental heritage, and building effective and advanced environmental institutions that strengthen the general sense of the importance of environmental safety. QNV2030 will further use the latest technologies to preserve the environment and develop a comprehensive plan at the state level that adopts a clear policy for urban expansion and population distribution.

• Qatar National Development Strategy 2018-2022:



In implementation of the goals of QNV2030, Qatar National Development Strategy (2018-2022) was launched with the aim of providing a better life for everyone living in the State of Qatar. This shows the extent to which the goals of the above strategy intersect with the goals of the population policy, which necessitated research on how to integrate some of the goals of the two documents and some of the proposed measures to implement those goals, noting the difference in the approach between the population policy and the strategy. While the population policy focuses on the importance of intervention in order to reduce the imbalance in the demographic composition of the country and its various repercussions, the strategy addresses development issues from a broad and comprehensive perspective.

In this regard, we can emphasize the following:

- The population challenges that the State of Qatar will face in the coming years require the integration of the population dimension in the various projects presented by Qatar Third National Development Strategy (2024-2028). Thus, the Permanent Population Committee must develop a balanced future population vision that meets the needs of national development projects on the one hand, and preserves the identity of Qatari society and its Arab-Islamic culture on the other hand.
- This in turn requires conducting multifaceted population studies linked to the projects proposed in the strategy in order to reach a practical vision and viable solutions to the population issues that will arise during the coming period.

The above convergence between the goals of both the Strategy and the Population Policy underscores the direction that the Permanent Population Committee has begun to follow; namely focusing on the issues of demographics and labor force (population and labor force axis). As for the other pillars, such as education, health and empowerment issues, the PPC's attention relates only to those aspects that affect demographics and labor force, without addressing the details of those pillars per se. This will be taken into account by the PPC in formulating the Population Policy Programme of Action for the next phase (2024-2028).

• The general framework developed for the Population Strategy of the GCC countries:

Based on the special relations and common features that bind the



GCC countries, the common destiny and unity of purpose that unite their peoples, and the desire to achieve cohesion, integration and interdependence among them, and in compliance with the guidance issued by the GCC General Secretariat, Qatar Population Policy is guided by the following goals contained in the General Framework of the

Population Strategy of the GCC States issued in 2013:

- Achieving a balance in the demographic and labor force structures to ensure the homogeneity of the Gulf society, confirm its Arab and Islamic identity, and maintain its stability and cohesion.
- Achieving a demographic balance in the GCC countries in the light of the available resources.
- Achieving balanced development between regions in each country with the aim of reducing internal migration to cities.
- Developing human capital through the provision of health and social care, education and training at appropriate levels.
- Developing the educational system to keep pace with modern educational trends and meet the needs of the labor market.
- Increasing the economic participation rates of male and female citizens, with attention to opening new areas of work for Gulf women.
- Developing population statistics and labor market data in the GCC countries, raising the level of their accuracy and comprehensiveness, updating them on a regular basis and standardizing related definitions and concepts.

• Arab Population Planning Strategy:

The Arab Council for Population and Development of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States is currently preparing the "Arab Population Planning Strategy", to serve as a frame of reference for Arab countries in diagnosing the demographic reality in these countries, taking into account the demographic characteristics of each country. Therefore, the objective of this strategy is to:

- Develop a frame of reference for Arab countries in the field of population and development, through which a vision for the Arab region and its response to development challenges and population dynamics can be formulated, and implementation plans and national population strategies can be developed, as well as linking the population dimension to development in all axes and mechanisms of sustainable development in line with international and regional developments.
- Diagnose the population reality in the Arab countries, taking into account the demographic characteristics of each country, and dealing with the population issues and challenges facing the Arab countries based on scientific research and studies and Arab, regional and international conferences in this field.

• International References:

The Population Policy is guided by the directions and recommendations contained in some international charters and treaties, especially those signed by the State of Qatar, such as:

- Decisions and Plan of Action of the Cairo Conference on Population and Development, 1994
- Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995
- Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, 1998
- United Nations Millennium Goals 2000
- Conventions on the Rights of the Child
- Arab Charter on Human Rights 2004
- Arab Family Strategy 2005

Perhaps the most important new international reference is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, endorsed by the 193 member states of the United Nations (including the State of Qatar), which consists of 17 goals.

These goals guide the Permanent Population Committee in its review, development and updating of the current Population Policy Programme in response to population and development transformations at the local and international levels.



ii) Principles:

Qatar Population Policy is based on a set of principles derived from:

• Principles of Islamic Sharia and values of Qatari Society:

The Population Policy adheres to the provisions of Islamic law with regard to family formation, marriage and divorce issues, the rights and duties of spouses and children. It also guarantees the freedom to choose a partner, the preservation of women's status in the family, the guarantee of their right to education, work, property, the freedom to dispose of their property and other rights granted to women by Islam. The Population Policy has also been guided by Islamic principles in reproductive health issues, such as: The right of spouses to make decisions concerning reproduction without pressure or coercion, to take care of the health of pregnant women, fetuses and children, to space pregnancies, where the health of the woman so requires, by agreement between spouses, and other principles governing relations within the family.

The Population Policy takes into account the values, traditions and customs prevailing in Qatari society regarding family cohesion and advocating the rights of its members, the values of solidarity, compassion and mutual assistance among members of society, and the provision of various services to all, especially to those who are exposed to emergency problems or difficulties, such as divorce, widowhood, disability, illness or accidents. While preserving the basic traditions of society, the Population Policy changes or develops certain customs and traditions that can be an obstacle to the progress and development of society, such as those customs that limit women's participation in social, economic and political life.

• The Constitution:



The Constitution of the State of Qatar includes a number of articles related to population issues, such as issues related to family, education, health, employment and other basic principles of Population Policy. Article (21) of the

Constitution stipulates that "family is the foundation of society. It is based on religion, morals and patriotism, and the law regulates the means to protect it, support its entity, strengthen its bonds and preserve motherhood, childhood and old age under its umbrella." The Constitution also affirms in a number of its articles the care, maintenance and protection of young people, the care of public health, and attention to education, science, literature, arts and heritage. In addition, it affirms guaranteeing security, stability, equal opportunities and the values of justice, freedom, equality, solidarity, brotherhood and other noble values of society. This is confirmed in

Article (146) which stipulates that "the provisions on public rights and freedoms may not be requested to be amended except to the extent that their purpose is to grant more rights and guarantees for the benefit of the citizen". Whereas Article (35) stipulates that "people are equal before the law. There shall be no discrimination between them on grounds of sex, origin, language or religion".

• Political Orientations of the State:



In addition to the above, the Population Policy adheres to the political orientations of the State, represented by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, on various issues related to population and development. His Highness often stressed the comprehensiveness of development in all economic, social, political and cultural fields, and that development aims to achieve the aspirations of the political leadership in building the nation and citizens, improving people's livelihoods and preserving the country's natural resources. His Highness also pointed out on more than one occasion the importance of the participation of all, men and women, in the development process. His Highness stressed the development of the educational and health systems and raising the level of social services.

"Sustainable development cannot be achieved unless the citizen is allowed to participate in decision-making", said His Highness the Father Amir said at the Sixth Doha Forum for Democracy, Development and Free Trade in 2006. "Development is not only measured by numbers, but by people's feelings, reactions and reassurance towards their present and future", pointed out His Highness in the same forum in 2007.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said in his speech at the opening of the 42nd session of the Shura Council on 05.11.2013: "The comprehensive development of our country was, and still is, our main concern, believing that integrated and balanced development is the way to establish a modern state that responds to the requirements of the times, and achieves for Qatar the leading position we aspire to, and for the Qatari people the decent living standard that befits them". In his presentation of Qatar National Vision 2030, His Highness stressed the importance of preserving balance between the environment and the human being and the importance of strong family ties, saying: "We must build the Qatari human being who is able to participate effectively in the economic, social and political life of the country".

The aim of sustainable development is to preserve the right of future generations to enjoy the country's riches, wealth and potential. Therefore, the Population Policy must proceed from this right so that the current generation does not exhaust the country's natural resources. We must maintain a clean healthy environment, build social relations on solid foundations, and establish a culture that instills in the hearts of the new generation the values of truth, goodness, justice, brotherhood and all the other great values of our Islamic religion and Arab heritage.

A reading in the data of persons with disabilities in the State of Qatar



Prepared by Dr. Mustafa Kharoufi -
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Introduction

The State of Qatar pays great attention to persons with disabilities, which is clearly reflected in the State's effort to include their issues and needs into all its programs and policies in various sectors (education, health care, work, housing, public and private facilities, culture and sports). Qatar also seeks to promote and protect their rights based on the principles of the constitution. Qatar was among the first countries to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008. On 7 and 8 December 2019, Qatar organized the Doha Conference on Disability and Development under the theme "Harnessing the Power of Sustainable Social Development to Advance the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" in support of international efforts to achieve linkage between the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the one hand and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on the other.

The General Population, Housing and Establishments Census, as a major statistical source that assists in the formulation of policies and planning of programmes, provides the numbers of the population and its various characteristics, including gender, age, family composition, education, work, profession and disability. The Planning and Statistics Authority also allocates a comprehensive statistical chapter on a regular basis for data on people registered in disability centers. The institutions working with persons with disabilities base their efforts and plans in integrating persons with disabilities into society on accurate field survey data, including the Model Disability Survey conducted by the Planning and Statistics Authority, which enables the provision of statistical chapters containing detailed data and the follow-up of these statistics on an annual basis⁽¹⁾. The survey aims to identify the needs of persons with disabilities and identify the types of disability in the country, in addition to analyzing the data collected in order to enumerate the percentages related to the study and integrate them in society. All this constitutes one of the most prominent efforts of the State and its relevant bodies towards this social group, in dedication to the authentic values of the State of Qatar, which are based on the principles of equality for all segments of society.

This article provides an analytical reading of the data of the Population, Housing and Establishments Censuses 2010 and 2020 related to persons with disabilities in the State of Qatar, which aims to achieve maximum benefit. This data has been issued by the Planning and Statistics Authority on a regular basis since the General Population and Housing Census on disability in March 1986⁽²⁾, and on those registered in centers for persons with disabilities by type of disability, gender, nationality and age group, as part of household surveys that include general data from

multiple sources based on the data provided by ministries, authorities and health centers.

The article also aims through this reading to highlight the efforts of the State of Qatar represented in providing many services and medical care to them, in order to promote and protect the rights of this social group. Given that the State of Qatar was among the first countries to endorse the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008, it has made great strides to fully integrate them into society and involve them in the development process. This has also been included in Qatar National Vision 2030, which stipulates achieving equality and justice for all groups and sectors of society, as there are currently 34 specialized bodies in Qatar that provide dedicated services to persons with disabilities. Disability is part of human nature, resulting from the interaction between health ailments such as dementia, blindness or spinal cord injury and a combination of environmental and personal factors. It is defined as disability to perform functions to include impairments, restrictions on activity and barriers to participation. Disability is an interaction between people with health conditions (such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, depression) and personal and environmental factors surrounding them (such as negative attitudes like difficulty accessing buildings and public transportation). Disability patterns are also influenced by trends in health conditions, environmental and other factors - such as traffic accidents, falls, violence, humanitarian emergencies - such as natural disasters, conflicts, diet and drug use⁽³⁾. Today, an estimated 1.3 billion people – or 16% of world's population – are severely disabled, and this number is increasing due to the increase in noncommunicable diseases and the increase in people's ages. The available data on persons with disabilities reinforces the fact that they must achieve full and effective participation in all aspects of society, and the principles of inclusion and accessibility must be consolidated in all services. It is, therefore, the responsibility of all countries of the world to ensure the care and protection of the rights of this group under international human rights law.

The Qatari legislator has defined in particular in Article (1) of the Special Needs Act No. 2 of 2004 that persons with disabilities are considered to be any person with permanent total or partial disability in any of his/her senses or physical, psychological or mental abilities to the extent that limits his/her potential for learning, rehabilitation or work. This law has constituted a fundamental pillar in the embodiment of the rights of children with disabilities whom the legislator has designated, within its provisions, many axes related to preventive measures such as disability, health, upbringing, education and others.

(1) The Planning and Statistics Authority annually issues data on those registered in centers for persons with disabilities by type of disability, gender, nationality and age group.

(2) Central Bureau of Statistics – General Population and Housing Census - March 1986 (Persons with Disabilities by Type of Disability, Age Group and Gender) Table No. (35), page 146

(3) World Health Organization <https://www.emro.who.int/ar/health-topics/disabilities/index.html>

Table (1) Number of persons with disabilities by data from the 2010 and 2020 Censuses (Qataris & non-Qataris) by sex

Nationality	Sex	2010	2020
Qataris	Females	1452	3,677
	Male	1733	3,885
Non-Qataris	Females	1891	5,363
	Male	2567	5,435
Total		7,643	18,360

Source: Planning and Statistics Authority

Table (1) above indicates the evolution of the number of persons with disabilities in the State of Qatar with the development of the population, and shows in particular that the prevalence of disability in Qatar remains low compared to the global disability rate⁽⁴⁾, as the number of persons with disabilities reached 18,360 in 2020, compared to 7,643 in 2010, representing about 0.35% of total population. As for the distribution of Qatari persons with disabilities by sex, it is noted that the general

trend in previous years continues, with males constituting the largest percentage of Qatari persons with disabilities. This can be attributed to the fact that males are more vulnerable to work injuries and accidents of various kinds.

Persons with Disabilities and Type of Disability:

Determining the type and severity of disability contributes to determining its nature, the measures needed to address it and the type of services to be provided, as well as the methodological changes that must be made. Table (2) and Table (3) below contain data derived from the Population, Housing and Establishments Censuses for the years 2010 and 2020, respectively, and they are based on medical and social criteria. It was found that the most common types of disabilities are mental disabilities of various kinds, followed by motor disabilities. As for the distribution of persons with disabilities by sex, it is noted that the third most prevalent disability among males and females are mental disabilities, followed by motor and visual disabilities. There is also a clear qualitative gap in the types of disabilities, where motor disabilities are the most prevalent among males, while they are the least prevalent among females.

Table (2) Persons with Disabilities by Type of Disability and Municipality in the 2010 Census

Population with Disabilities	Municipality							
	Doha	Al Rayyan	Al Wakrah	Um Salal	Al Khor & Al Thakthira	Al Shamal	Al Dhaayen	Total
Memory	938	871	189	116	77	23	52	2266
Self-care	978	978	145	121	60	22	51	2355
Vision	951	976	159	177	57	29	75	2424
Hearing	626	607	115	92	113	16	33	1602
Pronunciation & comprehension	1337	1154	209	143	95	20	47	3005
Movement	1420	1384	224	165	94	37	78	3402
Other	452	485	84	40	22	4	22	1109
Total	6702	6455	1125	854	518	151	358	16163

Source: Qatar Statistics Authority - Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2010, Table No. 114

Table (3) Population with Disabilities (Possible More than One Difficulty per Person) by Type of Disability and Municipality December 2020

Population with Disabilities	Municipality								
	Doha	Al Rayyan	Al Wakrah	Um Salal	Al Khor & Al Thakthira	Al Shamal	Al Dhaayen	Al Shihaniya	Total
Memory and focus	1,691	2,321	527	451	195	16	342	86	5629
Self-care	1,082	1,168	295	246	150	9	188	39	3177
Vision	1,490	1,827	428	384	155	17	295	57	4653
Hearing	1,499	1,712	470	360	182	28	329	60	4640
Pronunciation	1,126	1,132	312	244	160	13	191	45	3323
Comprehension and communication	1,100	1,299	309	258	157	10	192	44	3369
Movement	2,101	2,579	612	506	253	28	437	77	6593
Other	668	1,040	237	159	65	6	147	42	2364
Total	10,757	13,178	3,190	2,608	1,317	127	2,121	450	18,360

Source: Planning and Statistics Authority. – General Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2020, Table No. (108), pp. 282-283

(4) Globally, there are more than 1,000 million people with disabilities who make up almost 15% of the world's population (i.e., one out of every 7 people is disabled). World Health Organization. – World Report on Disability. – Geneva, 2011, p. 7

Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for Empowerment:

Since ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008, the State of Qatar has made great strides in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, in order to fully integrate them into society and involve them in the development process. This has been included in Qatar National Vision 2030, which aims to achieve equality and justice for all segments of society, and seeks to enhance cooperation and coordination between state agencies and institutions of public benefit as well as civil society organizations in order to provide greater protection and care for the rights of persons with special needs. Qatar has also established several welfare associations, in an effort to raise awareness and educate society about the rights of persons with disabilities and to develop legislation and laws emphasizing the need to provide appropriate educational services for children and adults with special needs.

In addition to the presence of 34 specialized entities that provide services to persons with various disabilities, it is noted from reading the data of the 2010 and 2020 Censuses that the number of registered persons with disabilities increased from 6,536 in 2011 to 11,911 in 2020. The Qatar Population Status Report ⁽⁵⁾ shows improvement in services provided by the concerned centers which is reflected in the increase in the number of registered persons with disabilities in these centers. Males accounted for 63% of total registrations ⁽⁶⁾. Qatar Society for the Rehabilitation of Special Needs recorded the highest percentage of total registrations (67% of total PWD registered in all centers in 2020), followed by Al Shafallah Center, which provides exemplary services for persons with disabilities.

Table (4) Registrants in Centers for Persons with Disabilities by Nationality, Gender and Type of Disability, 2019

Type of Disability	Qataris			Non-Qataris			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Motor	1,047	575	1,622	769	301	1,070	1,816	876	2,692
Mental	1,089	726	1,815	860	489	1,349	1,949	1,215	3,164
Visual	541	433	974	432	253	685	973	686	1,659
Audio	328	264	592	503	267	770	831	531	1,362
Speech and language disorders	344	144	488	237	107	344	581	251	832
Psychological and social	5	7	12	10	11	21	15	18	33
Multi	833	621	1,454	870	621	1,491	1,703	1,242	2,945
Developmental	82	42	124	91	45	136	173	87	260
Down syndrome	244	209	453	282	236	518	526	445	971
Autism	753	184	937	1,062	256	1,318	1,815	440	2,255
Other	145	212	357	198	17	215	343	229	572
Total	5,411	3,417	8,828	5,314	2,603	7,917	10,725	6,020	16,745

Source: Planning and Statistics Authority, Persons with Disabilities, Chapter 9, 2019

Diverse and Supportive National Plans for Persons with Disabilities:

The State of Qatar has approved many programs for persons with disabilities, the latest of which was the National Autism Plan 2017-2021, to improve the lives of these individuals and their families. Other sectoral plans in various service entities also focus on the rights of persons with disabilities and ways to develop them and build their capabilities. This shows the State's attention and comprehensive care for them, and its awareness of various aspects that concern them and their families, as this care starts from the discovery of disability and its level, through medical, educational and social due care, all the way to develop capacities, help to attain self-reliance and success in the educational and academic path, and integration into community activities and programs.

The Ministry of Public Health has been keen to include the rights of persons with disabilities in all provisions of its National Health Strategy⁽⁷⁾. Qatar Rehabilitation Institute is one of the outputs of this strategy, and it is the largest center in the Arab region, that provides multiple services, including community and functional rehabilitation programs and research. Mental health is also one of three priorities in the field of health services, based on the results of studies conducted within

the National Strategic Plan for Mental Health 2013-2018.

Qatar Population Policy (2017-2022)⁽⁸⁾ has dedicated an important axis to persons with disabilities, with the aim of following up on their empowerment to participate in economic and social life, measuring their access to advanced services in terms of care provided to them, as well as all measures taken by the State to allow more effective participation in community activities and how to develop and improve these services. Qatar Population Policy also indicates that there are plans to prepare and implement rehabilitation and vocational training programs for persons with disabilities in order to enable them to work in public and private sectors, with the participation of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs, Qatar Rehabilitation Institute and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The Policy further identifies a set of procedures that have been converted into a number of qualitative and quantitative indicators that help evaluate the implementation of the provisions of this policy, by monitoring the achievements, and detecting challenges.

Persons with disabilities in the State of Qatar benefit from social security provided by the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs (currently the Ministry of Social Development

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

(6) Planning and Statistics Authority – Qatar Social Statistics, 2011-2021, page 24

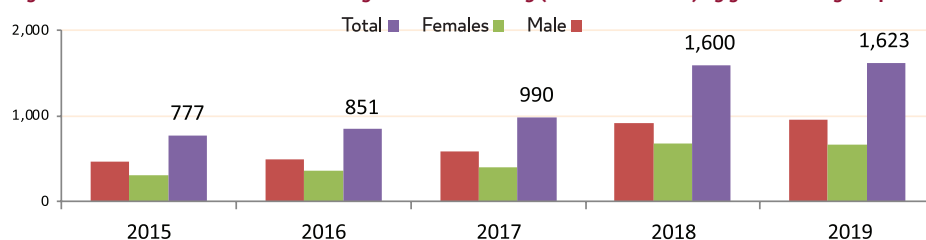
(7) National Health Strategy 2018-2022. <https://www.moph.gov.qa/arabic/strategies/National-Health-Strategy-2018-2022/Pages/default.aspx>

(8) Permanent Population Committee – Qatar Population Status Report 2020

and Family). Hence, the number of beneficiaries of social security increased from 959 to 2,100 during the period 2015-2020, and persons with disabilities constituted 11% of total beneficiaries of social security in 2020. The percentages of males and females were 18% and 7%,

respectively, for the same year, in addition to benefiting from the servant allowance, which is provided free of charge to this category, as beneficiaries of the category of persons with disabilities constituted 23% of total beneficiaries of the servant allowance in 2020⁽⁹⁾.

Figure 1: Persons with disabilities benefiting from social security (servant allowance) by gender during the period (2015-2019)



Source: Planning and Statistics Authority, Civil Society Services, Chapter 10, 2019

Appropriate health services are also provided for persons with disabilities, as the number of residents at Rumailah Hospital and Qatar Rehabilitation Institute (inpatients) reached 3,385 people, who are cared for by 1,518 employees in the services of persons with disabilities at Rumailah Hospital, meaning that there is approximately one employee providing service for every person with disabilities. Females constitute about 63% of these workers, in addition to other achievements in favor of this group, mainly; the creation of detailed lists of persons with disabilities with different expertise and qualifications; the creation of data on persons with disabilities employed in a number of ministries; the plans to prepare and implement rehabilitation and vocational training programs for persons with disabilities to enable them to work in government and private sectors; allocating some public schools as centers for the integration of persons with disabilities in the educational process by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education; providing a cultural and social center for the blind by the ministries of Culture, Sports and Youth; providing an evaluation of job applicants and their abilities along with rehabilitation advice and recommendations by Qatar Rehabilitation Institute; the creation of special windows to facilitate the transactions of persons with disabilities in a number of ministries and government and non-government bodies.

On the other hand, Qatar Population Status Report 2020 indicates that the number of economically active Qataris with disabilities (15 years and above) reached 197 persons, representing 7.1% of total Qataris with disabilities; 73.1% of whom were males and 26.9% were females.

Efforts at the International Level to Develop Targeted Social Policies :

During the organization of the Doha Conference on Disability and Development under the theme "Harnessing the Power of Sustainable Social Development to Advance the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" on 7 and 8 December 2019, the State of Qatar sought to support international efforts to achieve a link between the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the one hand and the UN Sustainable Development Goals on the other, in order to develop social policies capable of achieving comprehensive equality in society, with the participation of various government and private sectors and civil society. The disability rights organizations, decision-makers, governments, civil society organizations, experts and academics found in this conference an opportunity to express their views 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 that enables all individuals without exception or discrimination to have fair and equal opportunities, through:

- Shedding light on the most prominent issues and challenges the persons with disabilities face and reviewing the most important international experiences to overcome them.
- Leveraging from the complementarity and intersection between

the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Agenda of Sustainable Development in order to adopt a global advocacy agenda in this regard.

- Highlighting the rights of persons with disabilities at the top of the International Development Agenda.
- Qatar's commitment to recognize and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and to adopt an inclusive policy to empower them and secure their opportunities for participation.

The work of the Conference resulted in the adoption of "Doha Declaration", which is considered a reference in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities in particular and human rights and inclusive and sustainable human development in general, seeking to:

- Formulate a general perspective on policies relevant to the rights of persons with disabilities at the global level.
- Raise awareness of the implications of regional policies.
- Support advocacy efforts by promoting civil society participation.
- Lead reform efforts at the national level.

Table (4) Registrants in Centers for Persons with Disabilities by Nationality, Gender and Type of Disability, 2019

Center	Females		Males	
	No.	%	No.	%
Al Shafallah Center	232	5.1	421	5.5
Al Noor Institute for the Blind	263	5.8	272	3.6
Qatar Society for Rehabilitation of Special Needs	2355	52.1	3809	50.0
Qatar Sports Federation for People with Special Needs	22	0.5	134	1.8
Audio Education Complex	27	0.6	18	0.2
Doha International Center for Special Needs	15	0.3	48	0.6
The Comprehensive Tamakon School	44	1.0	115	1.5
Qatar Social Cultural Center for the Deaf	102	2.3	231	3.0
Qatar Social and Cultural Center for the Blind	104	2.3	153	2.0
Step By Step Center	18	0.4	77	1.0
Qatar Autism Center	18	0.4	67	0.9
Mada Center	1309	29.0	2254	29.6
Omega Center	7	0.2	20	0.3
Total	4516	100	7619	100

Source: Planning and Statistics Authority, Persons with Disabilities, Chapter 9, 2019

(9) Planning and Statistics Authority, – Qatar Social Statistics, 2011-2021, page 24.

Activities and Events of the Permanent Population Committee

Meeting of HE Dr. Saleh M. Al-Nabit, President of the Planning and Statistics Authority and Chairman of the Permanent Population Committee, with Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA on 5 March 2023:

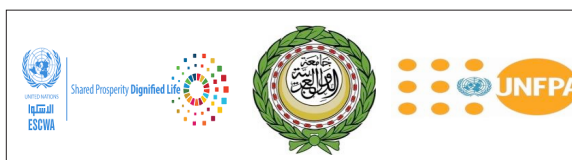


HE Dr. Saleh M. Al Nabit, President of the Planning and Statistics Authority and Chairman of the Permanent Population Committee, met on 5 March 2023 with Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in the presence of Ms. Laila Bakr, Laila Bakr, Regional Director of UNFPA for the Arab States, both of whom participated in the opening of the "United Nations House" in Lusail City on the sidelines of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

During the meeting, HE Dr. Saleh M. Al-Nabit reviewed the efforts of the State of Qatar in early dealing with population and development issues and its achievements in this regard, and valued the fruitful cooperation relations between the PPC and the UNFPA, which was crowned by signing a number of relevant agreements, and benefiting from the UNFPA's expertise in following up and evaluating PPC's work and its technical and scientific activities in line with the international trends in the fields of population and the characteristics of Qatari society.

For her part, Dr. Natalia Kanem thanked the State of Qatar for its continuous support to the United Nations at the global level, and the UNFPA's work in particular. She noted the technical support that the UNFPA can provide on the analysis of SDGs data, including the development of the Second Voluntary National Review, as well as supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 in the fields of reproductive health, adolescents and gender. She also expressed the UNFPA's readiness to provide support to the Qatari government in its approach to delivering on its commitments to support and empower women and youth and to help build capacity, adapt and be resilient to climate change.

The PPC's Technical Office participates in the Second Virtual Workshop for Focal Points in Member States for the Sixth Review of the International Conference on Population and Development in the Arab Region (Ten Years After the 2013 Cairo Declaration) :



The PPC's Technical Office, represented by its Director Mr. Abdul Hadi Al Shawi, participated on 2 February 2023 in the Second Virtual Workshop For Focal Points In Member States, organized by ESCWA, in partnership with the Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the League of Arab States, with the aim of coordinating the preparation of national reports on the Regional Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Declaration on Population and Development 2013.

The workshop aimed to identify the progress made in the process of collecting information and data and the challenges faced by countries in completing the questionnaire, discuss possible solutions to overcome them and exchange successful experiences and practices in this field. It was also an opportunity to discuss the elements of national reports and the timetable for their preparation, as well as to benefit from the expertise available at ESCWA, UNFPA and the League of Arab States in the preparation of reports.

Among the participants in this workshop were representatives of national focal points for the coordination of the review process in fourteen Arab countries: Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen. Experts from ESCWA, the League of Arab States, UNFPA Regional Office and representatives of UNFPA national offices also participated in the workshop. The current sixth review seeks to review the progress made ten years after the Cairo Declaration, the developments, weaknesses and strengths in the development and implementation of population policies and programmes, the integration of population variables into the development process, the common challenges faced by Arab States in fulfilling their commitments, as well as the positive opportunities and factors that contributed to the success of major efforts in this area.

The review is expected to result in a regional report to be submitted to the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, to be held in New York in April 2024. ESCWA, UNFPA Regional Office for Arab States and the League of Arab States hope that the results of this review will contribute to rationalizing the efforts of Arab governments and recovery plans from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that no one is left behind in development in the region. The sixth review process of the Cairo Conference 2013 consists of several pivotal activities. In order to ensure a systematic and effective review process, ESCWA requested the member states to nominate national focal points to coordinate with national stakeholders and gather the necessary information. Subsequently, ESCWA and its partners prepared a guidance model to support Arab states in preparing national review reports on the implementation of the 2013 Cairo Declaration.

Planning and Statistics Authority Announces the Launch of Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2023-2024:

The Planning and Statistics Authority announced the launch of the field phase of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey, which is implemented at the state level. The data collection process will continue for a full year until the end of February 2024, with the participation of about 5,000 Qatari and non-Qatari households representing all municipalities of the country.

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey is one of the large and important surveys that provide a series of important data from an economic and social perspective on the conditions and standards of living in the State of Qatar. It provides important and accurate statistical data on the consumption patterns of national and resident households, and knowledge of the relative distribution of spending on goods and services to be used in calculating the cost of living indices. This survey aims to calculate the average income of the individual and household expenditure on various expenditure items from different sources, and link them to the factors affecting them such as educational level, occupation, economic activity, etc., and the impact of demographic, social and economic factors on the household. It is also of great importance in providing indicators of income and monthly expenditure for the household and individual, estimating the size of the current demand for goods and services, and helping to predict the future needs of the population for goods and services.

HE Dr. Saleh M. Al Nabit, President of the Planning and Statistics Authority, said that based on its mission of conducting, organizing and supervising official statistical operations, and implementing various censuses and surveys, the PSA will conduct a sample survey of the characteristics and nature of household income and expenditure in the State of Qatar, where about 5,000 Qatari and non-Qatari households representing all municipalities of the country will participate in this survey.

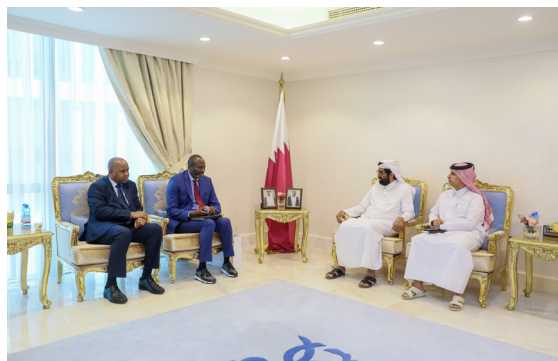
He added in a press conference today that within the framework of the PSA's preparations to start the executive operations to collect data from households, the project workers were trained this week on the statistical and field aspects of the project. They will be trained on technical aspects on "Sunday" and "Monday" of next week, as the survey form will be filled out online. Researchers will be provided with sufficient devices to collect data, in addition to designing an online page for families wishing to complete the data required for self-survey without the researcher's visit.

He further pointed out that these data and statistics help in objectively determining the economic and social conditions in the Qatari society, including closely examining the expenditure and consumption patterns of Qatari and non-Qatari households, the purchasing power of household income, and the living conditions of households, in addition to the composition of the consumer shopping basket. This will contribute to supporting development decision-making related to the population's current needs, planning for future needs, and drawing up appropriate economic and social policies to raise the quality of life for households in Qatar.

He noted that the PSA assures all households participating in the survey - in accordance with Emiri Resolution No. (2) of 2011 - that all data obtained will be treated with complete confidentiality, and will only be used for the purposes of survey and statistical study, calling on all citizens and residents to cooperate fully with field researchers, and provide them with detailed and accurate information in order to make this survey a success and to support the planning process for economic and social development in the State of Qatar.

It is worth mentioning that this national survey, which is being conducted at the state level for the seventh time, is one of the household surveys included in the PSA plan, and it is conducted periodically every five years, where it was last conducted during the period 2017-2018.

Meeting of HE Dr. Saleh M. Al-Nabit, President of Planning and Statistics Authority, with Director General of the National Agency of Statistics and Demography of Senegal:



HE Dr. Saleh M. Al-Nabit, President of the Planning and Statistics Authority, met with Mr. Aboubacar Sedikh Beye, Director General of the National Agency for Statistics and Demography of Senegal, and his accompanying delegation on 20 March 2023. This meeting was part of a three-day visit by a delegation from the Republic of Senegal to the Planning and Statistics Authority to learn about aspects of the PSA work in the fields of statistics and field surveys.

The meeting discussed a number of topics of common interest. The delegation was briefed during the visit on the experience of the State of Qatar in implementing the project of General Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2020 based on administrative records, which is an approach that developed countries seek to apply to move from traditional censuses based on field surveys to a census based on administrative records.

In the same context, the Senegalese delegation reviewed the latest methods and techniques used in the implementation of the last census, and the electronic transformation in the implementation of some household surveys instead of field surveys. The delegation also learned about GIS and its great role at the present time in the implementation of field surveys, in addition to identifying the great development in economic statistics in the field of national accounts, foreign trade and other economic statistics.

Studies and Research



Prepared by Dr. Mustafa Kharoufi -
Permanent Population Committee

Planning and Statistics Authority. Qatar : Sustainable Development Goals 2020. November 2021:



Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Agenda in 2015, UN Member States have been pursuing the goals of the Agenda, consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets, which is a roadmap for international development aimed at fighting poverty, hunger and inequality, and achieving social justice by providing opportunities for all segments of society and reducing the effects of climate

change. It is also a collective commitment of States to achieve these noble goals for the benefit of the aspirations of all peoples. In order to achieve these goals, the countries of the world have worked to translate this Agenda into national policies, strategies, programs and plans aimed at bringing about a qualitative transformation in the educational, health, environmental, economic and social systems, based on data and indicators that enable monitoring and measuring progress in achieving the targets within the aforementioned goals. Assessing the status of countries has become linked to the extent to which they have achieved the SDGs, which have become practical tools to identify key priorities and challenges, track progress and identify gaps and gaps that require solutions in order to achieve sustainable development by 2030. In addition, the United Nations, under the auspices of its Economic and Social Council, has provided spaces for the participation of all countries of the world through events (forums and workshops) such as the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development ⁽¹⁰⁾, with the aim of exchanging experiences, knowledge and successful practices in the process of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These spaces allow for reviewing various national efforts, and help policymakers identify the actions required to highlight progress and prepare an assessment of what has been achieved.

The Sustainable Development Goals 2030 are of paramount importance to the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Morocco, as they provide them with a framework to present and discuss the outcome of their achievements, follow up on progress achieved, monitor achievements and challenges in the fields of economic, social and environmental development and clarify the strengths and weaknesses in achieving these goals and targets, in addition to presenting perceptions of actions to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

This is evident through the completion by the Kingdom of Morocco of a new development model in 2021 that will constitute an additional incentive and an appropriate framework to accelerate the implementation

of the SDGs ⁽¹¹⁾, in addition to adopting integrated strategies such as the National Initiative for Human Development. This is also evident through the role played by the State of Qatar as a donor of development assistance to the least developed countries, in addition to investing in a number of countries of the world, and hosting a large number of workers of various nationalities who contribute to the development of their countries through remittances for the benefit of their families.



This report aims to monitor the most important achievements and their impact on the human reality, the most important programs and projects that have been achieved by viewing the outcome of various relevant government sectors, and the most prominent challenges arising on the horizon of 2030, by analysing the current situation and the adopted development strategies, their

specific objectives, and ways to crystallize them.

Seven years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which has become a comprehensive framework for development that intersects with the aspirations of both countries, the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Morocco have made remarkable progress in various fields. In particular, the two countries have worked to develop an effective statistical system that enables the collection, processing and dissemination of socio-economic data and analysis that monitor the extent to which all social groups benefit, in line with the commitment of both countries not to leave any of their citizens behind in development.

Planning and Statistics Authority - Marriage and Divorce in the State of Qatar 2021, August 2022:

Marriage and divorce statistics are one of the main pillars of vital statistics through which the characteristics of marriage and divorce are studied to determine characteristics of the family in the State of Qatar and the trajectories of Qatari society on issues related to population growth. These statistics have been an important element when making decisions to achieve the goals of the National Development Strategy (2018-2022). Among these goals is building a safe and stable society under effective governments and family institutions, and developing policies and programs aimed at enhancing family cohesion.

The statistics data is divided into two parts: the first section includes data and indicators on the average age at first marriage, the general marriage rate, the characteristics of marriage in Qatari society through indicators of first marriage, and the age groups and educational level of spouses. The second section focuses on issue of divorce in Qatari society,

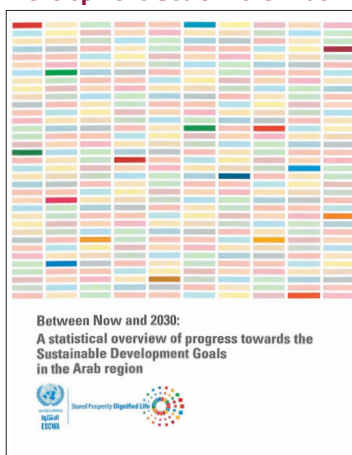
(10) This falls within the framework of the provisions of paragraphs 79 and 84 of Resolution 70/1 on the Sustainable Development Agenda adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015 to which Member States have been committed.

(11) Special Committee on the New Development Model. New Development Paradigm: Unleash energies and restore confidence to accelerate progress and achieve well-being for all. – Rabat, April 2021

and contains data on divorce such as the general divorce rate per 1,000 population, divorce certificates by type of divorce (revocable divorce, minor irrevocable divorce, divorce against compensation "Khula" and major irrevocable divorce), spouse's age group, duration of marriage and kinship, as well as divorce certificates by age group.

The Qatari family is experiencing a set of changes resulting from the profound social and economic transformations taking place in Qatari society. In order to contribute to monitoring their different realities and situations in terms of size, patterns of construction, forms of interrelations between their elements and living conditions, as well as the challenges they face, the Planning and Statistics Authority provides important statistical topics related to the family. These are topics of interest in the areas of population and social studies. The data contained in the bulletin issued by the PSA is the outcome of its cooperation with the Supreme Judicial Council in accordance with the variables agreed upon and published in the annexes.

United Nations ESCWA - Between Now and 2030: A Statistical Overview of Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Region – Beirut, 2021:



Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is one decade left to advance development and gather much-needed evidence to measure progress, stagnation and setbacks. This report, "Between Now and 2030: A Statistical Overview of Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Region" achieved by the Arab region on each of the seventeen SDGs.

The report highlights where the region now stands from 2030 since the base year 2000. It also focuses on progress under the three dimensions of poverty, gender equality and climate. It stresses the importance of data availability and its impact on planning processes. It also provides a detailed assessment of the latest data and progress in the indicators available for each SDG compared to the well-performing regions and the rest of the world to highlight the position of the Arab region.

The report also notes the role of investing in strengthening the information systems to improve timeliness of data release, which has a significant positive impact on countries' ability to monitor progress towards the SDGs. Accurate, timely and comparable statistics are essential to understanding social, economic, and environmental trends, as decision-makers need such information to develop appropriate policies, allocate resources and prioritize interventions.

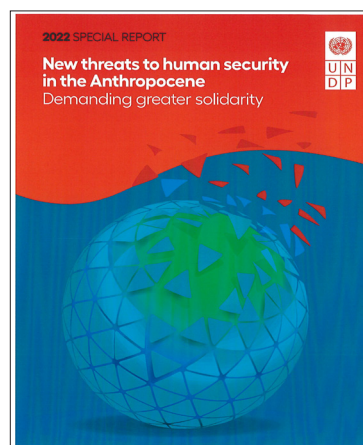
For most Arab countries, nearly half of the SDG indicators still lack data. Gaps and delays in the release of data thus hamper policymakers' work to truly understand who is included or left behind, so as to take appropriate action at the right time. Moreover, the current SDG indicators address a wide range of social, economic and environmental aspects, but do not reflect the breadth of population outcomes and determinants.

Countries must therefore make an effort to monitor additional indicators in line with their national context. NSOs are often caught in a vicious cycle of statistical backwardness, where limited awareness and appreciation of the importance of data has led to continued lack of

funding for statistics. There is also an urgent need to intensify efforts to develop national statistical plans, increase government funding, update national statistical legislation in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and improve the registration of deaths and births. The Arab region must therefore accelerate efforts and improve data availability for all seventeen SDGs to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Regional progress assessments indicate that decent progress has been made on the SDGs related to health and clean and affordable energy, including industry, innovation and infrastructure. The region is also making some progress on the SDGs related to hunger, education, clean water and sanitation, life on earth and partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals. As for the SDGs related to poverty, decent work, economic growth, reducing inequalities and climate action, they showed very slow improvements or remained stagnant.

There are serious concerns about the regression in achieving the SDG Framework on sustainable cities and communities, and at the level of achieving peace and justice and building strong institutions. There is a general weakness in the availability of data for many SDGs, especially those related to gender equality; responsible consumption and production; life below water; sustainable cities and communities; and peace, justice and strong institutions. In the Arab region, significant progress has been recorded in achieving 29 of the 169 SDG targets. Many indicators are not available, even in well-developed statistical systems, and disaggregation by sex, age, income level and other characteristics remains weak. Nearly half of the indicators are not available in most Arab countries, which hinders policymaking, and limits efforts to leave no one behind. Thus, increased investment in improving data quality is critical for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region. Many of the SDGs can only be achieved through structural change across social, economic, political, cultural and environmental dimensions.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene: Demanding Greater Solidarity – New York, 2022:



With the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world has reached unprecedented levels of human development. On average, people have been living healthier, richer and better lives longer than ever before. But a growing sense of insecurity is taking root, with an estimated six out of seven people worldwide already feeling insecure in the years following the pandemic. This sense of insecurity was not only high – it was growing in most countries with data including increase in some countries with the highest HDI values. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone, putting every aspect of our well-being at risk and injecting an acute sense of fear around the world. Thus, for the first time, human development indicators have declined significantly, unlike in recent global crises.

The pandemic has infected and killed millions of people around the world; it has upended the global economy, halted hopes for education, delayed the administration of vaccines and medical treatment, and disrupted

life and livelihoods. In 2021, even with the availability of highly unevenly distributed Covid-19 vaccines, the environmental recovery that has begun in many countries and the partial return to schools, the crisis has deepened in health, with life expectancy at birth declining.

After about five years of progress, according to a new simulation, it is not hard to understand how Covid-19 has made people feel more insecure.

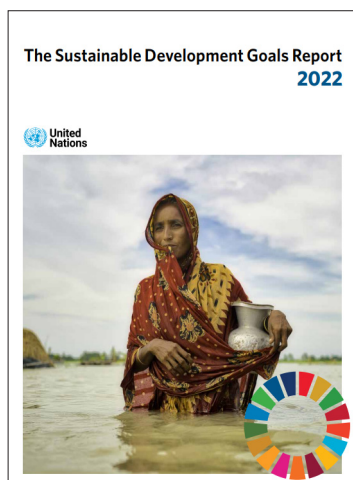
But what does explain the striking difference between improvements in wellbeing achievements and the decline in people's perception of safety? This is the motivating question for this report. Development approaches with a strong focus on ecological growth and less attention to equitable human development have given rise to stark and growing inequalities and dangerous and destabilizing planetary change.

The 2020 Human Development Report showed that no country has achieved a very high HDI value without contributing significantly to the pressures that are dangerously changing the planet. In addition to climate change and the increasing prevalence of diseases associated with planetary pressures, we face biodiversity losses and threats to key ecosystems, from tropical forests to oceans. Our pursuit of development has neglected our existence rooted in nature, resulting in new threats as a byproduct of development: new health threats, increased food insecurity and recurring disasters, among many others. Recognizing that our patterns of development drive us to human insecurity compels us to reconsider the concept of human security and understand what it means in the Anthropocene.

When first introduced in the Human Development Report 1994, the application of human security refocused the security debate from regional security to people's security. This idea, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, called on security scholars and decision-makers to look beyond protecting the nation-state to protect what we care most about our lives: Our basic needs, physical integrity and human dignity. The importance of the right of everyone to be free from fear, want and humiliation was also emphasized. The close link between security and development, and the protection and empowerment of individuals and communities was also highlighted.

This report explores the new generation of interacting threats, emerging in the context of the Anthropocene, to human security and what to do about it. The first part of the report illustrates how the concept of human security helps identify blind spots when development is assessed simply by measuring achievements in well-being, and suggests ways to enrich the human security framework to take into account the unprecedented challenges in the context of the Anthropocene. The second part discusses four threats to human security superimposed on the Anthropocene context (Figure 3): downsides of digital technology, violent conflict, horizontal disparities, and evolving challenges to healthcare systems.

United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals Report, New York 2022:



This report provides an overview of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by analyzing the latest

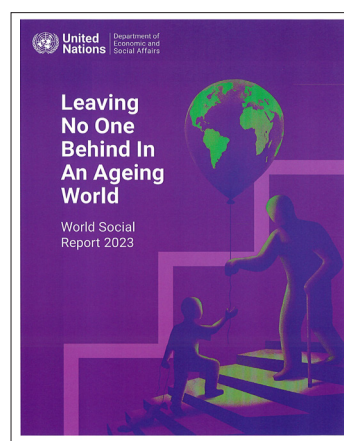
data and estimates available, where global and regional progress towards the seventeen SDGs is tracked with in-depth analyses of the indicators selected for each SDG. It concludes that the risk posed by successive and interconnected crises threatens the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The report highlights the gravity and magnitude of the challenges ahead. The accumulation of crises, dominated by COVID-19, climate change and various conflicts, has incidental impacts on food and nutrition, health, education, environment, peace and security, and affects all SDGs. The report also presents years of progress in working to eradicate poverty and hunger, improve health and education, and provide basic services. It also points out areas that require urgent action to save the SDGs and achieve meaningful progress for people and the planet by 2030.

According to the latest data provided, the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc across the SDGs, and its effects are far from over. Global "deaths" directly and indirectly attributable to COVID-19 reached 15 million by the end of 2021. More than four years of progress efforts in poverty alleviation have also been eliminated, pushing an additional 93 million people worldwide into extreme poverty in 2020. 147 million children have also missed more than half of their personal education over the past two years. The pandemic has also severely disrupted essential health services, hampering hard-won progress on SDG 3. At the same time, the world is on the verge of a climate catastrophe as billions of people are already feeling the consequences. The proportion of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in 2021 rose by 6%, reaching an all-time high, completely wiping out the declines associated with the pandemic. The war in Ukraine has also created one of the largest refugee crises of modern times. As of May 2022, people have been forcibly displaced from their homes, causing soaring prices for food, fuel and fertilizers, further disrupting global supply chains and trade, as well as disruptions to financial markets and threats to global food security and aid flows.

The report stresses that to emerge stronger from crises and prepare for unknown challenges in the future, funding our data and information infrastructure must be a priority for national governments and the international community.

United Nations – Department of Economic and Social Affairs - World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind in an Ageing World, New York, 2023:

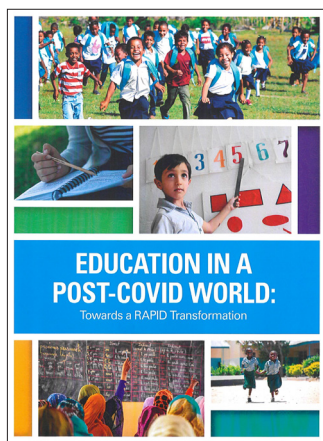


The world is changing, with a gradual trend towards ageing population in most countries, as an inevitable result of the demographic shift towards longer lives and smaller families. The number of 65-year-olds is expected to double over the next three decades to reach 1.6 billion in 2050, representing more than 16% of the world's total population. It is a major transformation that has begun or will soon begin in all countries of the world. This irreversible transformation is the result of a marked improvement in many indicators of public health and sanitation

and increased utilization of education, and family planning. The World Social Report shows that this demographic trend needs to be widely understood more than just a set of concerns, as it will affect important parts of economies and societies. This shift in the age composition of the population also raises many questions about pro-ageing arrangements and intergenerational solidarity in all countries to benefit from improvements in social protection systems.

This report explores the social and economic opportunities and challenges posed by population ageing and is based on a framework plan to support national policies to create just, equitable and inclusive societies for people of all ages, that promote healthy ageing, fight poverty, provide decent work before people age, benefit from the skills, experience and knowledge of older persons, and ensure that ageing support systems are financially sustainable. The report recommends that decisive measures that allow societies to benefit from and adapt to population ageing should not be postponed in order to avoid high social, economic and financial health costs for present and future generations. Governments can therefore deal with the challenges of population ageing while enhancing opportunities for prosperity for all people and ensuring that no one is left behind through proper planning.

UNICEF - Education in a Post-COVID World: Towards Rapid Transformation - New York, March 2023:



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented disruptions in the education sector, including prolonged school closures around the world. Between March 2020 and July 2022, schools were completely closed for an average of 20 weeks and partially closed for an additional 22 weeks globally. The effects of school closures were widespread, affecting not only children's education, but also their health, nutrition, mental well-being, protection from child labor, gender-based violence, and more.

Three years after the onset of the pandemic, schools have now reopened around the world. The pandemic has catalyzed collective efforts by countries, stakeholders and partners to ensure continuity of learning and mitigate learning losses. In response to the urgent need to restore education, the RAPID Framework for Action was launched in order to accelerate learning. The framework summarizes five key actions to restore learning: reach out to each child and keep them in school; regularly assess learning levels; prioritize teaching the basics; increase teaching efficiency, including through catch-up learning; and the development of mental health and wellness.

UNICEF has produced a Recovery Aid Guide that provides countries with practical guidance on implementing a framework for action, featuring a list of policy actions and interventions that can serve as a springboard for long-term transformation, accelerating learning beyond a recovery period from using data inspired by the National Education Responses to School Closures during COVID-19 Survey, the UNICEF Pulse Survey and the Global Education Sector Recovery Follow-up

Survey managed with 166 UNICEF and World Bank country offices in the extended period from May to July 2022. The report also provides examples of solutions implemented by countries and emerging lessons in each action, noting the need to encourage, follow up and support the return to school for all children, and that education systems need to take effective measures to ensure that all children – especially the most vulnerable – stay in school.

Data from the GERT program shows that in 5 of 7 regions, community mobilization campaigns were among the most common actions implemented to get students back to school. The implementation of community mobilization campaigns was reported by nearly half of the responding countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, and about one-third of countries in East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia and West and Central Africa. In the Middle East and North Africa, automatic re-registration and community mobilization campaigns were the two most widely applied procedures. Automatic re-registration has been the most common procedure in Europe and Central Asia, as well as cash transfers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To mitigate learning losses, education systems must support interventions that increase the amount of classroom learning. In addition, teachers will need adequate training and support to ensure that these interventions are applied effectively. At least one-third of countries in each region reported implementing measures to support teachers in pedagogy and learning, where support to teachers has proven to be effective for increasing teaching efficiency and restoring learning.



Al Zubarah Fort

Al Zubarah Fort is a historic military fort in Qatar built under the supervision of the third ruler of Qatar, Sheikh Abdullah bin Qassim Al Thani in 1938.

Al Zubarah is considered the largest archaeological and heritage site in Qatar. It was selected in 2013 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is the best remaining example of Gulf cities that relied on trade and pearl diving during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Unlike the cities that existed at that time, Al Zubarah was able to maintain its traditional shape and features despite the extensive development witnessed by the country and the region.