

50 Population

Towards Better Life For Population

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- **Qatar Population Policy: Phase Four of the Follow-Up to the Implementation of the Population Policy (November 2020 - October 2021).**
- **The Role of Climate Change in the Spread of Diseases and Epidemics Among the Population.**



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General Supervisor:

Dr. Saleh M. Al-Nabit, Chairman of the Permanent Population Committee and President of the Planning and Statistics Authority

Chief Editor:

Mr. Abdul Hadi Saleh Al Shawi, Technical Office Director of the Permanent Population Committee.

General Coordinator:

Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Hammadi

Proofreading and Translation:

Mr. Ziad Mohammed Fateh Naasani

Mr. Mohammad Al Sharqawi

Technical Graphic Designer:

Mr. Osama Al Manaseer.

Permanent Population Committee

Website: ppc.gov.qa

Email: ppc@psa.gov.qa

Tel: (+974) 44958653

Fax: (+974) 44838976

Address: Doha Tower, P.O. Box 1855, Doha - Qatar

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General Supervisor

I am pleased to present to the honorable reader the 50th issue of Sukkan «Population» Magazine, whose first topic includes preparations for Phase Four (November 2020-October 2021) of the Second Population Policy of the State of Qatar (2017-2022), and the effort of the Technical Office of the Permanent Population Committee in preparing a work program for this phase. There is also a brief about what has been accomplished at the level of procedures and objectives of the follow-up phases. The work program for phase four includes a time plan and a follow-up questionnaire, which is a systematic tool for monitoring the population reality of the State of Qatar. It is designed in a way that allows working groups to fill it out easily, record quantitative and qualitative data, document its sources, and return it online to the Technical Office of the Committee, along with copies of the relevant documents.

The Main Article reviews the role of climate change in the spread of diseases and epidemics among the population, based on the clear impacts of climate change at the global level, and its broad effects that threaten food production, and contribute to the rise in sea levels that increase the risk of floods, as well as drought, desertification and frequent forest fires every year. The article also explains the close link between these climatic changes and human health through the outbreak or emergence of dangerous epidemics.

The Spotlight includes two articles: The first is Qatar Voluntary National Review 2021, which was prepared by the Planning and Statistics Authority. This report shows the work and progress achieved in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda during the past four years, in addition to the challenges facing the achievement of Qatar's



Dr. Saleh M. Al-Nabit
Chairman of the Permanent Population Committee

development aspirations. It further focuses on the economic, social and environmental impacts of the spread of the emerging coronavirus (Covid 19), and the measures taken by the government, which enabled it to deal efficiently with this crisis, as well as to address the future work required to achieve the remaining development goals before 2030.

As for the second article, it presents the key indicators of the main results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2020, which is the sixth in the series of population censuses in Qatar. This census is distinguished by the use of administrative records from official authorities in the country, in addition to modern technological means. This important national project has been fully and successfully implemented in exceptional circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic, as one of the requirements for preparing the Third National Development Strategy 2023-2027.

Qatar population policy:

Phase four of the follow-up to the implementation of the population policy (November 2020 - October 2021) (preparation to implementation)



Prepared by Dr. Youssef Brik,
the Permanent Population Committee

Introduction

Despite the continuing outbreak of the Corona (Covid-19) epidemic, the preparations for phase four (November 2020-October 2021) did not stop. The Technical Office of the Permanent Population Committee prepared a work program for this phase, in order to control and unify the pace of work among the six working groups in charge of following up the implementation of the Second Population Policy of the State of Qatar (2017-2022).

The work program of phase four included a time plan for each follow-up step, and a follow-up questionnaire, which is a systematic tool for monitoring the population reality of the State of Qatar. The questionnaire was designed in a technical way that allows working groups to easily fill out and return it online to the Technical Office, along with copies of the relevant documents.

In addition to the above, the aforementioned program included a simplified and condensed presentation of the work methodology at this phase, as well as instructions for filling out the follow-up questionnaire that would make it easier for working groups to conduct the process of recording quantitative and qualitative data with high accuracy, and duly documenting their sources, as any information would be little value if not properly assigned.

As is the case with each new follow-up phase, it must be emphasized, on the one hand, that the effective implementation of Qatar's Population Policy requires fruitful cooperation and coordination between most ministries, institutions and bodies concerned with implementing the work program of this policy^(*). On the other hand, the accurate follow-up of this implementation requires serious cooperation among the members of the working group itself and between each working group and the rest of the groups, which is what the Permanent Population Committee and its Technical Office seek to reach by enhancing the spirit of cooperation between and with groups, and facilitating their tasks.

First) Preparation of Phase Four:

This phase passed through several basic steps, mainly:

1. Prioritization

In early November 2020, the experts of the Technical Office developed a mechanism to determine the priorities of phase four of the follow-up phases, which is a table that includes a summary of the results of the previous (third) phase in each of the six axes approved in the population policy document. Due to space constraints, we will display only one example of these tables as follows:

2. Development of Follow-up Questionnaires

After receiving the required proposals about the priorities of phase four from the six working groups, the Technical Office discussed them with the heads of the groups in the first periodic meeting that was held between the two parties on Wednesday 02.12.2020. After the aforementioned meeting, the Technical Office processed these proposals (by amendment or addition), categorized them according to population policy axes, and included them in the follow-up questionnaire that was sent back to the groups for final opinion and official approval. After the official approval of the follow-up questionnaires by the authorities concerned with the implementation of the population policy, the Technical Office prepared the final version of these questionnaires. Due to space

constraints, we will display only part of these questionnaires as follows:

Second) Implementation of Phase Four

After completing the preparation of phase four, the Technical Office of the Permanent Population Committee sent the final work program to the working groups in the last week of December 2020. It included the time plan and guidelines for filling out follow-up questionnaires, in addition to the tasks and responsibilities of the head and members of the group, after which the implementation process began, which included the following steps:

1. Data Collection

Starting January 2021, the data collection process for the fourth phase of the follow-up to the implementation of the Population Policy work program began, in which six working groups comprising 49 members participated, including heads of the groups, representing various government and non-government agencies in the country.

Despite the continuing outbreak of the Corona pandemic, the aforementioned six working groups were able to accomplish their tasks, as this phase was characterized by the cooperation between all concerned parties entrusted with the implementation of the population policy work program and the working groups in charge of follow-up.

¹ (*) Based on the Council of Ministers' Decision No. QMO/177/2020 dated 11.05.2020, various ministries were addressed to implement the first recommendation contained in the summary of the most important works and recommendations derived from the Committee's Annual Report 2019, which states "assigning tasks to the Department of Planning and Quality in various ministries of the State, one of which is to provide various types of data requested by the working groups charged with following up the implementation of the population policy work program, due to the difficulties these groups face in obtaining data from more than one department within the same ministry.

Based on the above, heads and members of the working groups are kindly requested to communicate with the assigned department in the ministries concerned with the implementation of the population policy to get the data required for phase four.

2. Data Review, Audit and Analysis

After completing the data collection process at the end of May 2021, the Technical Office of the Permanent Population Committee reviewed and audited the data collected from government and

non-government agencies. After completing the review and audit of the data collected by the working groups, the Technical Office dealt with the results of the fourth phase, based on the descriptive analytical approach.

Summary of the results of phase three (November 2019-October 2020) (*) in the field of population and labor force

Goal 1: Increase the number of citizens

Procedures	Procedures Follow-up Results			
	Implemented in Whole or in Part	Under Legislation	Under Planning	Not Implemented
Expedite the issuance of the Marriage Fund Legislation				✓
Incorporate the reduction of marriage costs in family policies	✓			
Encourage Qataris to marry and have children	✓			
Rehabilitate and train willing experienced Qatari retirees to enable them to return to work	✓			

Adding suggested procedures from the population and labor force to achieve Goal 1^{2(**)}

1.
2.
3.

First Axis: Population and Labor Force

Goal 1: Increase the number of citizens

Procedure 1: Expedite the issuance of the Marriage Fund Legislation

Target indicator	Actual Status					Statement
	Existing, and is:					
	Totally implemented	Partially implemented	Under legislation	Under planning	Does not exist	
There is a tendency to expedite the issuance of the mentioned legislation						

Procedure 2: Create integrated programs that encourage Qataris to marry and have children

Create a program that provides financial grants for newborns up to the age of adolescence (18 years).						
Activate remote work for a full year for the employee from the date of the end of her maternity leave						
Carry out educational awareness programs for those who are about to marry						

Procedure 3: Carry out awareness campaigns for the Qatari family in order to reduce the phenomenon of late marriage

Set up clear educational awareness plans for the relevant state institutions on the importance of reducing dowries and marriage expenses						
Conduct scientific studies on the phenomenon of late marriage and its impacts on the individual and society to guide the aforementioned awareness campaigns						

2 (**) The head of the group communicates with his/her group members through the means he/she deems appropriate, and consults with them on the priorities of phase four, taking into account the lessons learned from the Corona pandemic in the field of population and labor force. The head of the group, then, collects the procedures proposed by the members to achieve each of the goals related to the population and labor force, and incorporates them in the questionnaire that he/she shall fill out and return to the Technical Office no later than Monday 30.11.2020.

3. Preparation of "Qatar Population Status Report 2021"

After reviewing, auditing and analyzing the data, it was included in «Qatar Population Status Report 2021». To complement the data that was included in the aforementioned report, the Technical Office prepared a general statistical overview on the population policy axes by monitoring the reality and transformations of the basic quantitative indicators for each axis, which are mainly provided by the Planning and Statistics Authority, or those issued by local and international statistical sources. The aforementioned statistical overview included the following:

- Reviewing the main achievements made in each of the population policy axes.
- In addition to the above, this paragraph included the challenges facing the implementation of the population policy in phase four.
- In order to give a brief picture of the results of the fourth follow-up phase, the report concluded with a paragraph summarizing its content and the proposed recommendations to address the difficulties and challenges facing the implementation of the population policy and the achievement of its objectives as hoped.

Accordingly, «Qatar Population Status Report 2021» includes an introduction, a preface, a conclusion, and six chapters, each of which deals with one of the population policy axes and its various dimensions in which the goals, objectives and procedures are reviewed. These goals, objectives and procedures have been converted into a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators as methodological tools for monitoring progress in implementing the population policy.

Third) Follow-up Results of Phase Four

The following table provides a brief picture of what has been

accomplished at the level of procedures and goals in the fourth follow-up phase. The total number of approved goals in this phase reached (18) and the number of procedures (53); of which (43) procedures were implemented totally or partially, with an estimated completion rate of 81%.

Results of the follow-up to the implementation of the procedures of phase four by axis

Based on the previous table, it is clear that the level of progress in achieving the goals is excellent in general, with a disparity in the levels of implementation of the procedures and the achievement of the goals approved in the follow-up program for each population policy axis. While the percentage of implementation of the approved procedures in phase four ranged between 90% (axis of urban growth, housing and the environment) and 100% (axis of education, training and youth, and axis of the elderly and persons with disabilities), it did not exceed 75% (axis of population and labor force) and 71 % (axis of public health and reproductive health) and 42% (axis of women and childhood).

There are many reasons behind this disparity, some of which are related to the behavior of individuals and groups, especially those related to the choices of women and youth, and their orientations towards marriage, establishing a family, reproduction levels ... etc. This requires long-term measures to influence the components of natural growth, especially those that can help raise the percentage of Qataris in the total population, in addition to long-term interventions that are linked to the introduction of thorough modifications to the structure of national economy, such as the adoption of the knowledge economy. Hence, the nature of the population policy axes, its components and possible areas of intervention would play a decisive role in determining the levels of achievement. On top of the above, the reasons for the aforementioned disparity may be related to the presence or lack of an independent sectoral strategy in this or that sector, or an action plan to develop a sector, or organizational and administrative orientations for some sectors.

Axis	Number of approved goals	Number of approved procedures	Follow-up Results						
			Procedures		Goals				
			Number of implemented procedures (totally or partially)	%	Progress in achieving goals (% of implemented procedures)				
					Excellent	Very Good	Good	Accepted	Weak
					80% and above	70-79%	60-69%	50-50%	49% and less
Population and labor force	5	12	9	75%					
Urban growth, housing and the environment	3	10	9	90%					
Education, training and youth	4	13	13	100%					
Public health and reproductive health	2	7	5	71%					
women and childhood	2	7	3	42%					
The elderly and persons with disabilities	2	4	4	100%					
Total	18	53	43	81%	3	2			1
									Excellent

Main Article:

The role of climate change in the spread of diseases and epidemics among people



Dr. Eng. Mohammed Saif Al Kuwari,
Advisor to the Ministry of Municipality and Environment,
Member of the Global Environment Research Team,
UN Commissioner for the Promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals

First: Climate Change Causes Devastating Disasters

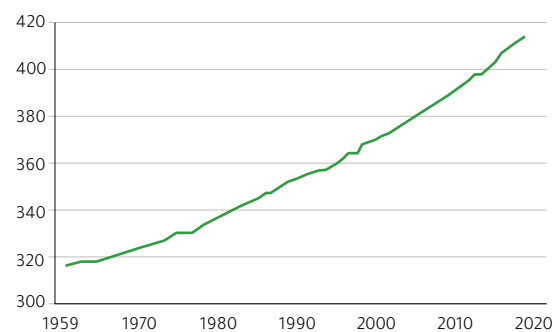
The climate change has catastrophic impacts of wide-range and unprecedented scale, from changing weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of floods, to droughts, desertification and frequent forest fires every year. The flourishing of industry, the development of trade, investment and transport, the change in human consumption patterns, and the lack of clean energy, led to the rise in the quantities of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to record levels not seen by the planet since three million years.



The impacts of catastrophic climate change on the planet (Getty)

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels have recently experienced a new surge. It represents 80% of greenhouse gases, with the annual global average carbon dioxide breaching the 410 PPM threshold, according to the WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, which is equivalent to about 3,210 gigatons (billion tons) of carbon dioxide. The equivalent of 50 gigatons (billion tons) of carbon dioxide is released annually into the atmosphere, with the increase continuing in 2020. Since 1990, the total radiative forcing - the warming climate impact - has increased by 45% due to long-lived greenhouse gases.

CO₂ concentrations continue to rise



(Source: Sustainable Development Report 2021)

Other greenhouse gases that cause global warming, namely:

Water vapor (H₂O). It is the most influential greenhouse gas on the Earth's climate, as its concentration plays a major role in controlling temperature. When the air becomes warmer, the amount of water vapor it carries increases. If the air becomes saturated with water vapor at a certain temperature, it condenses in droplets in clouds. If these droplets are large and dense enough, they fall in the form of torrential rain that can sometimes cause floods.

Methane (CH₄). It is a powerful greenhouse gas which remains in the atmosphere for many years. In 2019, its concentration reached 1,877 parts per billion, an increase of 260% of pre-industrial levels. The increase observed in methane concentrations from 2018 to 2019 was slightly smaller than the increase from 2017 to 2018, but still greater than the average increase over the last decade. Methane contributes about 16% of the radiative forcing by long-lived greenhouse gases. Approximately 40% of methane is emitted into the atmosphere by natural sources (e.g., wetlands and termites), and about 60% comes from anthropogenic sources (e.g., ruminants, rice agriculture, fossil fuel exploitation, landfills and biomass burning). (16)

Nitrous oxide (N₂O). It is a greenhouse gas and an ozone-depleting chemical. Its concentration reached 332.0 parts per billion in 2019, an increase of 123% of pre-industrial levels. The increase observed in nitrous oxide concentration from 2018 to 2019 was also less than the increase from 2017 to 2018, and almost equal to the average rate of increase over the last decade.

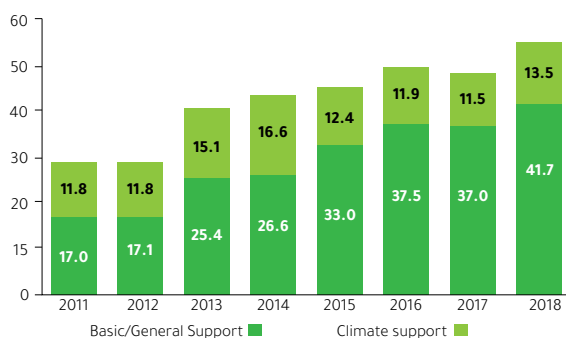
The global temperature has averaged about 1.2°C above the baseline. So, the world is still far off track in achieving the target in the Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and to zero carbon dioxide emissions for the world as a whole by 2050.

Ozone (O₃). The upper atmosphere, specifically the stratosphere - which is about 15-35 km away from the Earth's surface - contains relatively high concentrations of ozone molecules compared to its concentrations in the entire atmosphere. Together, these high concentrations form what is known as the ozone layer, which protects living organisms on the planet from harmful radiation, by absorbing ultraviolet rays from the sun on the surface of the earth, thus maintaining the survival of all forms of life on the planet. Plants cannot grow and live in the presence of ultraviolet rays, as well as plankton, which is a source of food for many aquatic organisms. Also, humans will not be able to resist sunburn resulting from these rays, and here lies the importance of ozone absorbing harmful ultraviolet rays before they reach the surface of the earth. Therefore, the destruction of this layer in the atmosphere due to polluting emissions from cars and power plants, leads to many diseases that affect humans, such as skin cancer, immune system deficiency in the body, and destroying the genetic material DNA. It also causes cataracts of the lens of the eye known as cataract and leads to premature aging. Ozone gas also causes 5% of the greenhouse emissions. (17)

Chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs). CFCs are not produced from natural sources, but rather from several different industries, such as: refrigerants, cleaning solutions, and aerosol cans. Since its production began in 1928, the concentration of these compounds in the atmosphere has been increasing. But when its destructive impact on the ozone layer was discovered, global efforts were successful in banning its production. However, there is a possibility that these compounds will remain in the atmosphere for up to 100 years due to their long life.

In light of these successive environmental disasters, countries are making efforts to combat climate change; it is the climate finance provided by developed countries to developing countries, least developed countries and island countries, which reflects an ongoing commitment to support the global transition to a future with low emissions and is resilient to climate change. Total climate finance reported by Annex I parties to the Paris Agreement averaged \$48.7 billion annually over the period 2017-2018, representing 10% increase over the period 2015-2016.

Total financial support provided on climate change, 2011-2018



Source: Sustainable Development Report 2021

Second: Climate Change and Human Health

Climate change and human health are interconnected in many complex ways. Over the past century, human civilization has been exposed to some serious epidemics and diseases that have spread globally, such as: malaria, Asian flu, AIDS, plague, cholera, swine flu and others. The Covid-19 epidemic might be the most severe epidemic that strikes the world since the Spanish Flu back in 1918,

as it poses a significant threat to the health systems all over the globe.

The increase in global temperatures due to global warming, which is estimated at an average of 1.5°C, the change in precipitation patterns in unusual seasons, the melting of ice at the poles, drought and desertification, have all led to abnormal changes. These phenomena and changes have caused natural disasters, including devastating hurricanes, forest fires in Australia, Turkey, Algeria, Greece, Brazil and others, and floods that affected cities in Europe and Asia, destroying buildings and public facilities, and causing massive damage to infrastructure, which led to the extinction of many wild organisms and rising sea levels. These environmental extremes threaten our health by affecting the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the weather we experience. These impacts extend to affect people who live in areas that are vulnerable to coastal storms, drought and sea-level rise, or people who live in poverty, the elderly, women, children and immigrant communities. Climate change scenarios include a change in the distribution of infectious diseases with warming and changes in outbreaks associated with weather extremes.

Climate change affects disease transmission by shifting the vectors' geographic range and by shortening the pathogens' incubation period. The temperature may modify the growth of disease-carrying vectors by altering their biting rates, as well as affecting vector population dynamics and altering the rate at which they come into contact with humans. A shift in temperature regime can alter the length of the transmission season. Disease carrying vectors may adapt to changes in temperature by changing geographical distribution.

For many pathogens, the environment plays an important role in the transmission, and hence changing environmental conditions (e.g. temperature) may alter the geographical distribution, diversity, levels and seasonality of the pathogen in nature, which could lead to emerging outbreaks (e.g. Ebola, SARS, MERS) in different geographical areas that have not previously witnessed the spread of these diseases. Therefore, many cases of dengue have been reported in Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain in recent years. Although most cases are not local, but came from abroad, several local cases of dengue fever were recorded in Croatia and France in 2010. During the hot summer of 2017, outbreaks of chikungunya were also reported in France and Italy. Late 2014 witnessed the arrival of Zika virus in ill-prepared Brazil, which increased confirmed cases to more than 200,000 in 24 months. «It is expected that epidemics transmitted by insects, such as mosquitoes and ticks, will spread to a large part of Europe in the coming decades, driven by climate change and commercial travel», researchers said at a conference in Amsterdam. The same applies to all countries on the shores of the Mediterranean, according to Giovanni Rizza, director of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Higher Institute of Health in Rome. The reports of the World Health Organization have also monitored an increase in the number of yellow fever mosquito swarms on the African continent. This type of mosquito is considered a major cause of the spread of diseases such as yellow fever, dengue fever, Zika virus and chikungunya virus. In an analysis published by the French newspaper Le Monde in its electronic edition, Ibrahim Suseh Fol, WHO Regional Director for Urgent Medical Aid in Africa, said that the risk of widespread epidemics in Africa is present and real, and threatens the health of its population in a terrifying manner, noting that the best proof of this is the official announcement of the spread of yellow fever in Eritrea in 2005, in Madagascar in 2006, in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire in 2008, in Angola in 2015 and 2016, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2016 and in Nigeria in 2017 and 2018. The spread of Zika virus has also been confirmed several times in a large number of African countries. He pointed out that the increase in the number of insects causing infectious diseases is partly due to the high rates of international exchanges and tourism. The main reason for this, however, is due primarily to the climatic changes in the region. Several studies conducted at the global level have proven that climatic changes would contribute to the increase in the numbers of these insects in areas where the climate is appropriate.

Some environmental phenomena, such as desertification, drought, forest fires or deforestation, cause the migration of some animal species and their mixing with other animals in a new environment other than theirs, which leads to their illness, and the transmission of pathogens of animal origin to other animals, and as such diseases would spread among animals. On the other hand, the global warming of 1.5°C contributes to the movement of large and small animals, whether on land or in the sea, to cold waters or to the poles to get out of the heat of the earth or the waters of the seas and oceans. This means that they may come into contact and mix with other animals, creating an opportunity for the spread of pathogens to reach new species, and thus expands the scope of outbreaks of diseases and epidemics, such as Covid 19.

Also, some studies and scientific research have shown that the risk of transmitting diseases increases among animals under pressure, as happens in the case of captivity or detention in small cages in wild animal trade markets, on farms, ranches or others. Consequently, these animals become stressed and weak as a result of being abused and pressured, which exposes their immune systems to collapse, increasing the risk of transmitting diseases. Hence, we see the emergence of new diseases in crowded wild animal markets, as medical studies have shown that the origin of Covid 19 is a bat that transmitted the infection to people in the animal market. With close contact with humans, the possibilities of transmission of these pathogens between different types of animals and from them to humans exists according to scientific and research studies, as 75% of all infectious diseases have animal origin. Therefore, the possibility of emergence or re-release of emerging viruses, bacteria and parasites becomes immense, according to scientific studies and research conducted in this field.

Another consequence of climate change due to global warming is the forced displacement of people within their countries; or far from their homes as a result of devastating storms, hurricanes, coastal flooding and massive wildfires. Inevitably, IDPs or refugees will bring infectious diseases along with them as they move through crowded camps and transport networks to major urban areas. So, humans are often the fastest transmitters of infection around the world due to mixing and contact with each other.

Third: The Danger of Viruses and Bacteria That Have Been Frozen for Thousands of Years

In a long report published on 05 May 2017, the British newspaper «Daily Mirror» quoted a group of scientists warning that climate change, which has led to increased temperatures on the planet, may lead to the melting of icebergs that have been frozen for thousands of years. This, in turn, could lead to the emergence of unknown strains of viruses, bacteria and germs frozen under that ice, which can be transmitted to humans, and lead to new waves of epidemics.



Melting icebergs due to climate change

Scientists, quotes the newspaper, cited the BBC report that in August 2016, a 12-year-old child from the Yamal Peninsula in the Arctic Circle in a corner of the Siberian tundra, died after being infected with the anthrax virus. It is believed that the infection was transmitted to him from an anthrax-infected reindeer who died 75 years ago from the disease, and its body remained frozen throughout this period until a hot summer wave led to activation and then transmission of the virus to that child.



Reindeer

Scientists' analysis indicates that anthrax was frozen in the body of a reindeer that died 75 years ago. When the ice covering the animal's body melted, the anthrax virus came back to life, and it is believed that it infiltrated the melting ice, which found its way into the water supply and then into the human food chain, infecting some people, including the 12-year-old who died of the disease. Millions of other frozen reindeer carcasses are thought to have been infected, as scientists fear global warming will cause more permafrost to thaw in the Alaskan tundra, and then the viruses will spread again among humans.

Scientists say that more than a million people died by the anthrax virus at the beginning of the last century, which leads them to believe that there are currently thousands of carcasses carrying this virus in different places under the icebergs and frozen places of the world. If the ice melts, these viruses will find their way to humans and spread again.

The researchers also discovered the «Spanish flu» virus intact since 1918, which is trapped in corpses buried in mass graves. Scientists also conclude that the melting of some icebergs and climate change at the beginning of the last century were also the cause of the «Spanish Flu» epidemic, which killed about 50 million people during the period 1918-1920.

Accordingly, scientists believe that rising temperatures on Earth and melting ice will be the beginning of a new wave of deadly viruses that may threaten all of humanity, according to the British «Daily Mirror» report.

In 2020, a recent scientific study entitled "Glacier ice archives fifteen-thousand-year-old viruses" was published, in which a group of scientists were able to collect and analyze ice samples from the Tibetan plateau in China, with the aim of studying microscopic organisms that have been living in the ice for thousands of years to know and understand the ancient climatic and environmental conditions that were archived in the ice. The scientists found that the glacial regions preserved many viruses unknown to modern science, during the last fifteen thousand years. The study also showed the presence of 33 groups of virus types in the ice, of which 28 were previously undetected and unknown. There is no information about their biological properties and whether they pose a health risk.



Tibetan plateau in China

Fourth: Enhancing People's Awareness of the Interrelation between Climate Change and Diseases

According to many studies and research on climate change and epidemiology, climate change is already affecting human and animal health, and leads to an increase in infectious and heat related diseases. Therefore, people's awareness must be raised to adapt to climatic changes and protect themselves from the spread of diseases and epidemics by adopting modern methods to prevent the spread of epidemics. The people must also take care of personal hygiene, not mix with the infected people or use their personal items, and stay away from crowded places. We must also spread this science and intellectual approach with our societies to provide the necessary protection from the risk of the spread of deadly viruses among people, especially the elderly and those suffering from chronic diseases. Societies must also realize that

the health impacts of climate change will be different in different places, and must understand which population groups are most vulnerable to the most serious health impacts of climate change, the experts said.

Scientists, experts and specialists in climate issues emphasize that the population should contribute to tracking disease vectors, such as: mosquitoes and ticks, and tracking diseases through scientific movements that spread within society, in order to involve the public in a simplified scientific awareness of the conditions around them that experts predict that they will be disproportionately affected by climate change and its impacts on health. In the event of displacement or refuge due to various environmental disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, and others, the population must verify that the areas they will move to are free from diseases and epidemics. They should further adhere to the health guidelines in force in those areas to avoid infection, which is one of the best strategies to follow.

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Spotlight

Qatar Voluntary National Review 2021 Submitted to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development



The State of Qatar participated in the activities of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021 with the aim of exchanging experiences and best practices with the international community in its march towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and its desire to review the various national efforts in achieving sustainable development, and the realization of Qatar National Vision QNV 2030, which adopted the pillars of sustainable economic, social and environmental development as an approach to determine the future of the State of Qatar. QNV 2030 has drawn up a vision of a vibrant and prosperous society in which economic and social justice prevails, and balance is maintained between the environment and the human being. QNV 2030 was the result of focused consultations that adopted the participatory methodology for setting priorities. Many groups of Qatari society participated in this Vision, including government and non-government agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations and academia. The First National Development Strategy (2011-2016) and the Second National Development Strategy (2018-2022) have both emerged from QNV 2030. These strategies followed the same approach in terms of ensuring the participation of everyone in setting priorities and studying the current situation in order to propose the main results, specific objectives, and a set of programs and projects to achieve them. The Third National Development Strategy will ensure that the same frameworks and standards are followed. Given the alignment of Qatar's Second National Development Strategy (2018-2022) with the 2030 Sustainable

Development Goals, the implementation of this agenda has become an integral part of the strategy's implementation process, and monitoring progress has become equally important.

Qatar Voluntary National Review 2021, prepared by the Planning and Statistics Authority in both Arabic and English, reviews the work and progress made in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda during the past four years. It indicates also the challenges facing the achievement of the country's development aspirations, with a focus on the economic, social and environmental impacts of the spread of the emerging corona virus (Covid 19), and the measures taken by the government to deal efficiently with this crisis. The VNR also addresses the future work required to achieve the remaining development goals before 2030, by aligning those goals with the objectives of the sectors of Qatar's Third National Development Strategy 2023 - 2027 which is currently being prepared.

The Planning and Statistics Authority has adopted a participatory methodology in preparing this report by involving ministries, institutions, government and non-government agencies and civil society organizations. The PSA has also worked on producing national indicators for sustainable development goals and targets, in order to build an integrated modern statistical system that enhances monitoring, following-up and evaluation of national development. The VNR details the goals achieved, the main messages and lessons learned from each goal, providing the reader with an overview of the most important issues, achievements and challenges. The preparation of this VNR is also one of the milestones on the road towards 2030 and the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Qatar is committed and confident of achieving this agenda by 2030, and continues to achieve more ambitious goals, through continuous efforts, and a coherent, consistent and inclusive methodology.

The State of Qatar has indeed aligned the Sustainable Development Goals with the national development pillars of QNV 2030 and the First and Second National Development Strategies that emerged therefrom and is keen to integrate this trend into the Third National Development Strategy 2023 - 2027. Qatar continues to focus on achieving sustainable results in all of its development policy priorities, through methods of cooperation and partnership with the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, universities and research centers.

This VNR was achieved under exceptional circumstances as a result of the outbreak of the Corona pandemic (Covid 19) all over the world, and the repercussions resulting from the measures taken to contain the spread of the virus. This epidemic forced most countries to implement preventive measures, and suspend cultural and social activities, creating health, economic, social and psychological crises that have affected various societies.

Despite the enormous challenges the State of Qatar faced, like the rest of the world, as a result of the repercussions of the global closure due to this epidemic, it has succeeded to a large extent in confronting this virus based on these main pillars: Protecting citizens and residents in Qatar, ensuring the resilience of the health care system, ensuring that the impact on the economy and society is minimal, adhering to international responsibilities, supporting other countries in need of assistance, and providing the necessary vaccines in a timely manner.



The VNR shows that most of the SDG-related targets have been achieved, most notably the eradication of poverty in all its forms and types, with the State of Qatar free from the phenomena of extreme poverty, absolute poverty and multidimensional deprivation. The development policy makers in Qatar realized early that the prevention of poverty does not mean only policies directed at protecting against income poverty, but rather achieving social justice, and integrating vulnerable groups into society through building an effective social protection system for all Qataris. Such system would take care of people's civil rights, and value their effective participation in the development of society, to ensure that no one is left behind.



The VNR also shows that achieving food security is one of the strategic priorities of the State of Qatar, as it has begun to develop an advanced plant, animal and fish production system through which it works to enhance self-sufficiency and food security for its population, by investing in food production both 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 National Development Strategy 2018-2022 with the targets of SDG2, which aims to achieve optimal use of natural resources, including food production resources and their sustainability for the population of Qatar.



Based on its conviction that the SDGs cannot be achieved without changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, the State of Qatar has adopted, in its national strategic objectives in the energy, water, food and waste management sectors, the approach of diversifying the production base and promoting a culture of rationalization of consumption and responsible consumption. The aim is to make this approach an integral part of community life and to create a balanced consumption pattern in Qatar.



The report indicates that the State of Qatar has made achievements aimed at establishing an integrated health care system that provides high-quality services through public and private health institutions. Hence, Qatar has made outstanding results in preventive care in various fields, including early detection of diseases, encouraging the public to practice healthy behaviors, and improving transparency of patients' rights and responsibilities. As a result, the State of Qatar has achieved this goal in the 2030

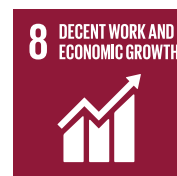
Sustainable Development Agenda. Qatar is also considered one of the countries with an advanced health system at the preventive and curative level, with clear plans for preparedness and response to health emergencies and epidemics through the use of highly trained health cadres and well-equipped health institutions with all the necessary supplies.



The State of Qatar attaches great importance to enabling and promoting social, economic and political inclusion for all, as the national development strategy realistically embodies through its effective projects. The State of Qatar has a enforced package of legislation and laws, and has ratified many international conventions to promote inclusion and preserve the rights of people. Qatar is also keen to provide humanitarian and development assistance to countries in need around the world, thus contributing to the achievement of the 2030 SDGs, and in commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, especially the principle of cooperation and partnership.



In order to achieve the goal 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. The most notable developments are the amendment of Labor Law and the regulatory measures related to labor market. As a result, the sponsorship system has been replaced with an employment contract that guarantees workers' rights and a minimum wage for workers and domestic employees, supported by the wage protection system. In addition, the amended Labor Law provides greater protection for workers through occupational health and safety procedures. In light of the Corona epidemic crisis, the State of Qatar has developed a national action plan aimed at reducing the impact of the disease, mitigating the effects on people, and enabling society to continue to live and work as normally as possible during and after the epidemic, in addition to reducing and mitigating 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 attaches great importance to the phenomenon of climate change and addressing its impacts in line with its National Vision 2030, which is reflected in its first and second strategic plans to implement this vision. The State of Qatar is one of the pioneering countries in dealing with climate change, as it is one of the first countries to ratify the relevant international agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1996. Qatar contributes to providing radical solutions by producing and exporting natural gas, which is the cleanest fossil fuel and a high-quality energy source, at a time when the world is moving towards renewable energies. It contributes to



supporting sustainable development, not only at the local level, but at the global level as well. The project to use compressed natural gas as a fuel is a prominent example of Qatar's efforts to address climate change. Qatar is moving strongly towards environment-friendly solutions such as diversifying energy sources, investing in solar energy, introducing the electric public transport system, switching to green buildings, and expanding natural solutions, such as the Million Tree Project. Qatar is also moving forward in transforming the economic system from dependence on oil and gas to a knowledge-based economy, which was included in Qatar National Vision 2030 and Qatar Strategy 2018-2022, which adopts a plan for a more competitive, productive and diversified economy. In this context, an educational system has been built based on three main guidelines: quality, justice and efficiency. The Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council was launched in 2018, enabling Qatar to diversify its economy, and shift from a gas-and-oil-based economy to a knowledge-based economy by opening new horizons based on research, development and innovation. This also includes expanding the involvement of citizens and competencies in this transformation, especially since the state is aware that it must strengthen its position on the map of the new global economy, and not be left behind.



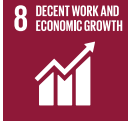
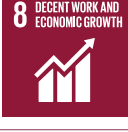
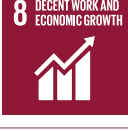
The issue of partnership is of great importance for the State of Qatar in many areas, including internal and external investment and innovative financing. Partnership also plays an important

role in international alliances and in the United Nations and its specialized agencies, noting that the Global Vaccine Alliance is a vivid example of the partnership that the world needs to address the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a form of cooperation that calls for expansion to include the wide spectrum of issues addressed in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

This contributes to "promoting the spirit of tolerance and benevolence, encouraging constructive dialogue, and being open to other cultures," in line with QNV 2030 and Qatar's Arab-Islamic identity. This includes the improvement of the lives of all citizens and residents of Qatar by strengthening legislation, reforming policies and adopting ambitious programs that would sustain economic prosperity and support social development. All of these measures are also aimed at protecting and guaranteeing the human rights of all citizens and residents in all sectors.

The State of Qatar relies on its comprehensive, sustainable, multifaceted and participatory approach to development in order to fulfill its commitments and achieve the ultimate goal of leaving no one behind. From this standpoint, the VNR 2021 can be considered a contribution from the State of Qatar in highlighting the global progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The following table indicates the alignment of the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with the sectors of the National Development Strategy 2018-2022. In accordance with this procedure, the goals and targets of the mentioned development agenda are part of the projects of the National Development Strategy 2018-2022, so that the process of monitoring their implementation is carried out through quarterly follow-up reports submitted by the relevant ministries and government agencies to the Planning and Statistics Authority, which follows up the progress in implementing the goals and targets according to the indicators adopted within the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Aligning the sectors of the National Development Strategy (2018-2022) with the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Sectors of the National Development Strategy (2018-2022)	Goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda				
Economic diversification and private sector growth					
Environmental sustainability, natural resources and economic infrastructure					
					
Education and training					
Health care					
social protection					
Public safety and security					
Culture and sports					
International technical cooperation					
Financial management, service delivery and institutional development					
Population, labor force and sustainable development					

Source: Qatar Voluntary National Review 2021

PSA publishes most important indicators of main results of General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2020



جهاز التخطيط والإحصاء
Planning and Statistics Authority

The Planning and Statistics Agency presented the main results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments «Qatar Census 2020», on Wednesday 13 October 2021 during a ceremony in the presence of Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al-Nabit, President of the Planning and Statistics Authority, and a number of officials and authorities. In his speech during the ceremony, His Excellency Dr. Saleh stressed that implementing the Census is one of the requirements of the preparation of the Third National Development Strategy 2023-2027. It also falls within the framework of translating the recommendations of the United Nations Statistics Division for the implementation of Censuses in the member states, and the decisions of the Board of Directors of the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf ("GCC-Stat"), which stipulates the use of administrative records for the conduct of this census in 2020. This is what distinguishes this census from previous censuses in terms of cost, effort, speed of data collection, dissemination of results, and their provision to users, while ensuring higher quality. Tablet computers, the Internet and the Census Call Center were used to collect, enter and review data, which contributed to accelerating the announcement of the results and making them available to users.

The 2020 Census is the sixth in a series of population censuses in the State of Qatar, as previous censuses were conducted in the years (1986, 1997, 2004, 2015). This important national project has been fully and successfully implemented in exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Census 2020, Data showed that population rose by about (1,147) thousand people compared to Census 2010, bringing the

population in Census 2020 to almost (2,846) thousand people, which represents an increase of (67.5%) compared to Census 2010. The annual growth rate between Census 2010 and Census 2020 amounted to (5.3%), with a drop in the annual growth rate compared to that between 2004 and 2010 censuses, when it was (14.8%). The increase in male population represented the largest percentage of population increase, as the male contribution to that increase was (65.4%), while the female population accounted for (34.6%) of the total increase. The results also showed an increase in the population of all age groups in the 2020 Census compared to 2010 Census. Age group (30-34) topped the list of the highest increase in numbers, with an increase of approximately (219) thousand people. As for the increase rate in each age group, the highest increase rate occurred in the (60+) age groups, as the numbers of elderly in each of these groups doubled at least once, and the age group (65-69) topped the list of the highest increase in the same category.

Population Density

Population density increased in Census 2020 by (5.67%) compared to Census 2010, amounting to about (6,244) people per square kilometer, compared to (0.146) people per square kilometer in Census 2010.

As usual, Doha Municipality topped the highest population density, reaching (5,344.1) people per square kilometer of the area of Doha Municipality, after it had recorded only (3,590.9) people in Census 2010. Despite this, its percentage of the total population decreased from (46.9%) in 2010 to (41.7%) in 2020. Um Slal Municipality maintained the second place in terms of population density, which reached (471) people, while Al-Rayyan Municipality occupied the third place, with a population density of (337.5) people.

With regards to the educational level of the population (10 years or more), the percentage of Qataris who obtained a high school certificate or higher increased at the expense of the less educated groups, as the percentage of Qataris with a secondary certificate

reached (29.2%) of the total Qataris (10 years or more) compared with (27.9%) in Census 2010. Also, the percentage of Qataris who obtained a University degree or higher amounted to (33.9%), compared to (20.3%) in Census 2010. This trend was also noticeable among the non-Qatari population as well.

Economically Active Population

As per results, the percentage of economically active Qataris (15 years and above) who are paid employees increased slightly by (0.6) percentage point at the expense of those with other working status between 2010 and 2020 censuses, reaching (97.7%) in Census 2020, compared to (97.1%) in Census 2010. The increase percentage for Qatari paid employees between the two censuses reached (60.1%). As for economically active non-Qataris (15 years and above), the percentage of paid employees declined slightly to (99.6%) from (99.8%) in Census 2010, while the percentage of non-Qatari employers increased to (0.3%) compared to (0.1%) in Census 2010. Economically active Qataris are concentrated in Public Administration and Defense activities at (53.5%), followed by Education at (12.3%), then Health and Social Work activities at (6.2%).

As for non-Qataris, they concentrate in the Construction activity at (34.1%), followed by the activity of Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Vehicles at (12.5%), and then the activity of Administrative and Support Service Activities at (9.6%).

In the same spirit, the results showed an increase in the percentage of Qataris working in the Mixed Sector between 2010 and 2020 censuses, as their percentage reached (34%) in Census 2020 compared to (9%) in Census 2010 of the total workers in the Mixed Sector, while non-Qataris accounted for more than (98%)

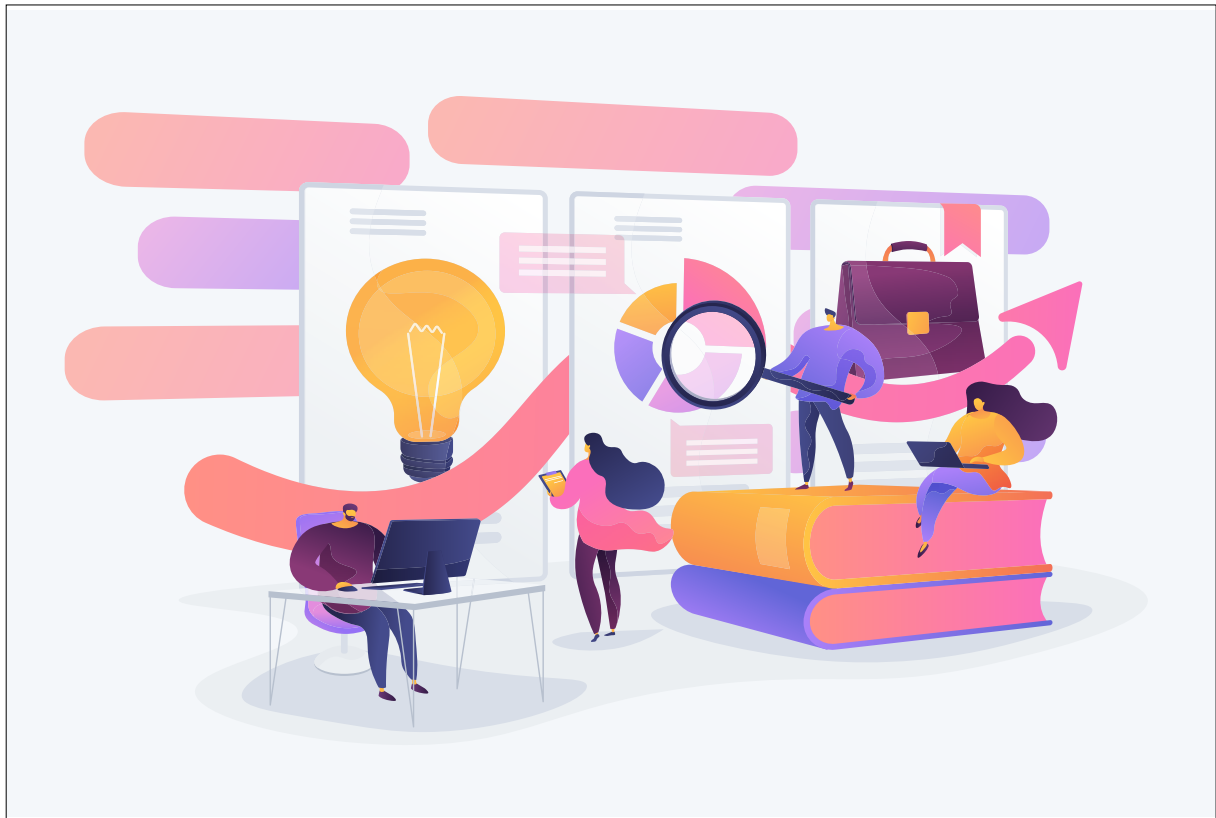
of workers in the Private, Household, Diplomatic / International / Regional Sectors.

As for those employed in business establishments, their number rose by (59.7%). The highest increase occurred in the activities of Administrative and Support Services, with an increase of (423.5%), while the number of those employed in business establishments operating in Mining and Quarrying activity decreased by (61.9%). Further, Census 2020 results showed that (78.9%) of the total jobs are in the private sector, followed by the household sector by (8.2%), then the government sector at (8.1%). The results show a rise in the percentage of private sector jobs by (4.0) percentage point, while the percentage of jobs in the government sector went up by (0.4) percentage point.

As for the number of buildings, results showed that number of buildings increased by (49.7%) between 2010 and 2020 Censuses, to almost (222.7) thousand buildings in Census 2020. The percentage of completed buildings in Al Rayyan Municipality slightly rose than those in Doha Municipality.

The number of housing units increased by (55.8%) between the 2010 and 2020 censuses to reach approximately (403.8) thousand units in Census 2020. The apartments constituted (53.1%) of the total housing units in Qatar, where Doha Municipality's share of those apartments reached (67.7%).

The number of business establishments increased by (130.6%) between the 2010 and 2020 Censuses, reaching almost (71.2) thousand in 2020 Census. This increase was distributed in all economic activities at varying rates, the highest was in the transport and storage activity.



Activities and Events of the Permanent Population Committee during Q2, 2021

Interview of PPC Technical Office Director with Al-Raya Economic Newspaper

Al-Raya Economic Newspaper published an interview with Mr. Abdel Hadi Al-Shawi, Director of the Technical Office of the Permanent Population Committee, in its Issue No. 14311 on 13 July 2021, on the occasion of the celebration of World Population Day observed on 11 July every year.

In this interview, Mr. Abdul Hadi Al-Shawi stressed that the State of Qatar has already begun the gradual shift towards knowledge-based economy through its quest to keep up with Information and Communication Technology and digital education, which, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, has become an important requirement of the knowledge society in our contemporary world. He said that Qatar's Population Policy «2017-2022» emphasized the need to «Improve public health of the population, amelioration of the reproductive health services and its services in line with the increase of the population and its geographical distribution.» He stated that the unemployment rate in Qatar was 0.1%, which is one of the lowest unemployment rates in the world that reached 6%, and the percentage of economically-active people in Qatar of the total population aged 15 years and older is one of the highest rates in the world. This is an evidence that the State is working to enhance the capabilities of young people and empower them in all fields. The latest available statistics indicate that the economic participation rate of Qataris has reached 51.6% of the total Qatari population aged 15 years and above, where the participation of Qatari males represents 66.6% of the total Qatari males aged 15 years and above, and Qatari females represent 37.1% of the total Qatari females 15 years and older.

In addition, local and international statistical data indicate that the developmental achievements made in the State of Qatar contributed to its entry into the era of economic and urban modernization, and gaining much higher prestige among nations by achieving advanced ranks in most of the human development indicators issued by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 2020. The most important of such indicators is the rise in the standard of living in terms of per capita national income, as a statistical indicator of the economic dimension of the quality of life, where the State of Qatar recorded the highest GDP per capita in the world, while the life expectancy at birth of Qatar increased to 80.2 years.

He also pointed out that the Permanent Population Committee, since its inception, has reached many achievements that are difficult to pin down in this context; namely: the preparation of the First Population Policy (2009-2014) and the Second Population Policy (2017-2022), 18 studies in "Population Studies" series, 49 issues of Population Magazine, and 8 reports on Qatar's Population Status, as well as a range of other published and unpublished reports and studies.

As part of the world's celebration of the World Population Day 2021, Mr. Abdel Hadi Al-Shawi stressed that the aim is to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues in the context of comprehensive development plans and programs, and the need to find solutions to such issues. In light of the continuing outbreak of the Covid-19 for the second year worldwide, the focus this year was on "prioritizing health and reproductive health rights for all." Hence, the theme of World Population Day 2021 was consistent with the emphasis of the Population Policy of the State of Qatar 2017-2022 in the basic goal of the axis of public health and reproductive health, which stressed the need to "improve public health of the population, amelioration of the reproductive health services and its services in line with the increase of the population and its geographical distribution». In this context, it must be emphasized that the health sector in Qatar has been linked, first and foremost, to the State's constant interest in this vital sector,



which was manifested in the Human Development pillar of Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030 that expressed Qatar's ambition to develop a healthy population, physically and mentally. This was also manifested in the constant and increasing support for this sector, which has contributed to the continuation of accomplishing many achievements indicated by many related health indicators.

Given the importance of this occasion for the Permanent Population Committee, it participated on 11 July 2021 in a meeting organized by the Cairo-based Secretariat General of the Arab League, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) via video conference technology, to launch the Population and Development Composite Index (PDCI) in the Arab world.

Regarding the mandates of the Permanent Population Committee and the accomplished achievements, Mr. Abdel Hadi Al-Shawi stated that Article 5 of Cabinet Resolution No. (11) of 2009 stipulated that the Permanent Population Committee, in coordination with the competent authorities, undertake specific tasks, the most important of which is to study the demographics, characteristics and trends of the population; propose the population policy of the state and observe its implementation after approval; prepare the studies and research on population aimed at knowing the social reality of the state and developing the population policies and programs; activate the mechanisms of cooperation and coordination between the ministries, governmental and non-governmental bodies and regional, Arab and international organizations related to population issues and programs; follow up procedures on the integration of population issues into overall development plans; follow up the implementation of the GCC Population Strategy; and participate in conferences related to population, as well as study topics referred to it by the competent authorities, within its competence.

Since its establishment, the Permanent Population Committee has reached many achievements that are difficult to pin down in this context; namely: the preparation of the First Population Policy (2009-2014) and the Second Population Policy (2017-2022), 18 studies in "Population Studies" series, 49 issues of Population Magazine, and 8 reports on Qatar's Population Status, as well as a range of other published and unpublished reports and studies. As for the main goals of the Qatar's Population Policy, it is to «achieve balance between population growth and sustainable development requirements». To this end, the new population policy 2017-2022 identified six axes, each of which has a main goal and a number of sub-goals. The most important of these axes is the axis of Population and Labor Force, and its goal: "to control population growth rates during the period from 2017 to 2022"; the axis of Urban Growth, Housing and The Environment, and its goal: "to create and develop urban centers far from Greater Doha, to provide clean urban environment and to ensure the sustainability of natural resources"; the axis of Education, Training and Youth, and its goal: "to promote qualitative education and training and to expand the participation of youth of both sexes in society and public life"; the axis of Public Health and Reproductive Health, and its goal: "to improve public health of the population, amelioration of the reproductive health services and its services in line with the increase of the population and its geographical distribution" that one of its sub-goals is: "to Reduce pressure on government health facilities and services" and "to Provide supporting programs to reduce the decline of fertility and childbearing rates among Qatari women".

With regard to reform the demographic imbalances, which is one of the most important challenges facing Qatar, the Permanent Population Committee developed the state's population policy, which focused on possible mechanisms to fix the imbalance in the state's demographic structure, the most important of which are:

- **Increasing the percentage of citizens:** The small size of Qatari population has been accompanied by a host of other challenges, represented by demographic phenomena imposed by the social and economic transformations witnessed and still taking place in the country. The demographic challenges or phenomena that are intended here are: the decline in Crude Birth Rate, the decline in Total fertility rate, and the delayed marriage. The reasons for such phenomena are the high standard of living of Qataris, the urban lifestyle in which they live, the increasing demand of Qatari women for education and employment, and the tendency of younger generations to build a nuclear or small family instead of the extended family. Accordingly, the logical and possible solution for the imbalance of the demographic structure is to increase or at least maintain the current rates of natural population growth. In the long run, this policy may contribute to remedying the imbalance of the Qatar demographic structure, which requires the following actions to be implemented:
- **Support knowledge-based economy:** the real challenge Qatar faces is to restructure the labor market, move out of the current growth pattern and shift to knowledge-based economy based on ICT, digitization and innovation. Within this context, we can say: The State of Qatar has already begun a gradual shift towards a knowledge economy through its quest to keep up with information and communication technology and digital education (digitization), which, in light of the Covid-19, has become an important requirement of the knowledge society in our contemporary world.
- **Reduce the recruitment of foreign workers and Eliminate labor surplus force:** In relation to the trend towards a knowledge economy, it has become mandatory to rely on qualified and highly skilled human resources, and to limit the recruitment of unskilled and semi-skilled labor that were

brought in large numbers in order to complete the giant construction and development projects associated in large part with the 2022 World Cup.

Mr. Abdel Hadi Al-Shawi also mentioned the economic participation rate for Qatari youth aged 15-24 years, and how it can be raised. He explained that young people are the ones who lay down the foundations for a sustainable future for upcoming generations. Thus, the State of Qatar has paid special attention to them, worked to empower them in all fields and motivate them to actively participate in sustainable development. According to the latest available statistics, the number of young people in Qatar aged 15-24 years reached more than 300,000 in 2020, or about 10.6% of the total population of Qatar, which recorded in the said year 2,846,118 people. The economic participation of youth in the State of Qatar is characterized by the disparity between the levels of economic participation of Qatari and non-Qatari youth. This rate can be raised by supporting small development projects undertaken by young people, in addition to stimulating the private sector to be able to attract the Qatari workforce.

As for the unemployment rate in Qatar and its percentage among Qatari youth, Mr. Abdul Hadi Al-Shawi indicated that the unemployment rate amounted to 0.1%, according to the Labor Force Sample Survey Q2 2020, issued by the Planning and Statistics Authority. It is one of the lowest unemployment rates in the world of 6%. This means that the total unemployed people in the State of Qatar amounted to 2,835 people, and that the unemployment rate for males was 0.1% of the total number of unemployed males that amounted to 1,170 persons, compared to 0.6% for females of the total number of unemployed females that amounted to 1,665. The unemployment rate for Qataris reached 0.5% of the total of 504 economically active Qataris aged 15 years and over, 0.2% for males and 0.9% for females. The highest unemployment rate is in the category of Qataris aged (15-24) years, which amounted to 0.5% in Q2 of 2020.

The percentage of the economically active persons in Qatar of the total population aged 15 years and above is one of the highest rates in the world, given that the majority of the economically active population, especially males, are expatriates workers, as this rate reached 88.2 in 2019.

As for the economically active Qataris, the latest available statistics indicated that the percentage of economically active Qatari males (15 years and above) accounted for 66.6% of the total Qatari population aged 15 years and above. On the other hand, females accounted for 37.1% of the total economically active Qatari females. One of the reasons explaining the low percentage of economically active Qatari women in the Qatari labor force is that a large number of Qatari women devote themselves to housework or studies.

At the conclusion of the interview, Mr. Abdel Hadi Al-Shawi stated that the State of Qatar is achieving progress in most of human development indicators and that the local and international statistical data indicate that the developmental achievements made in the State of Qatar contributed to its entry into the era of economic and urban modernization, and gaining much higher prestige among nations by achieving advanced ranks in most of the human development indicators issued by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 2020. The most important of such indicators is the rise in the standard of living in terms of per capita national income, as a statistical indicator of the economic dimension of the quality of life, where the State of Qatar recorded the highest GDP per capita in the world, while the life expectancy at birth of Qatar increased to 80.2 years. The expected number of schooling years increased to 12 years, and the average years of schooling to 9.7 years.

Based on these indicators, the State of Qatar ranked 45th out of 189 countries in the mentioned report.

PPC Technical Office participates in the training workshop for members of the Arab Council for Population and Development on strengthening the capacity of National Population Councils and Committees in the Arab world (Results-oriented Management): 15-17 June 2021 via Video conference technology

The Technical Office of the Permanent Population Committee participated in the Training Workshop on «Strengthening the Capacities of National Population Councils and Committees in the Arab world: Results-oriented Management». The Workshop was organized by the Social Affairs Sector at the Population Policy Department of the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Council for Population and Development (ACPD), in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) during the period 15-17 June 2021. As a result of the workshop, a manual on «Strengthening the Capacity of National Population Councils and Committees» was prepared by ACPD with the aim of assisting Arab countries in preparing, reviewing and following up population programs and policies at the national level, while providing technical support to member states to keep pace with international and regional developments and strengthening their capabilities to develop and update relevant national policies and strategies.

This manual has been prepared on the basis of a number of global practices, principles and experiences to be a qualitative and quantitative addition to the experiences and knowledge in order to unify efforts to achieve cooperation, coordination, and exchange of knowledge and expertise in the field of population and development in the Arab world. It was also based on what was received from the questionnaire forms «assessing the available capacities and identifying the needs» given to the Arab Population Councils and Committees in the member states of the Arab League. The Department of Population Policies of the Arab League and the Higher Population Council in Jordan, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund, organized a training workshop for members of the Arab Council for Population and Development on strengthening the capacities of the National Population Councils and Committees (Results-oriented Management), during the period 15-17 June 2021 via video conference technology, with a view to assess the strategies and action plans of the national population councils and committees, propose work aspects and priorities, and analyze the organizational structure of councils and committees and strengths and weaknesses through analyzing the tasks, responsibilities and functions of the population councils and committees, and results-based planning.

The workshop was attended by delegations from 16 Arab countries, a number of experts, and a representative of the United Nations Population Fund.

This comes in light of the continuing impact of regional crises in the Arab region, which has been hampering the achievement of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as Arab countries have to prepare and exert more efforts to confront the regional challenges imposed on them as a result of struggles, armed conflicts and instability, as well as the devastating impact on different segments of the population. In addition, there were repercussions of Covid-19 pandemic on many economic, political, social, psychological, cultural and health sectors.

Strategic Planning System within Results-Oriented Management in Population and Development Issues

The process of strengthening the capacities of the National Population Councils and Committees requires the adoption of a

system of strategic planning through Results-oriented Management to contribute to the prioritization of population topics and focus on their energies and resources.

Moreover, strategic planning for population and development topics is also a general framework followed by national population councils and committees in the area of population policies and topics to create harmony in national efforts by directing them towards contributing to achieving comprehensive development, and providing decision makers with evidence-based policy proposals that integrate the demographic dimension and characteristics of different population groups into development plans, the most important of which are crisis response plans to ensure comprehensive social protection for all segments of society, and to increase national commitment to population issues and dynamics and its interventions in economic and social development.

Goal of Training Course

The training course has been developed with the aim of developing a road map that prioritizes population issues, working towards common goals, through a common agreement on desired outcomes, and assess the councils' adaptation to a changing environment, which would shape and enhance the councils' identity and future vision, and identify their partners and scope of work. The strategic planning process is considered the best way to bring about a qualitative shift in the overall performance of the councils (planning to build infrastructure from administrative structures, developing and enhancing staff capacities to fit with planning in order to ensure the implementation of strategic plans with high efficiency).

Proposed Axes of the Results-Oriented Strategic Planning for National Population Councils and Committees

Strategic planning process includes three main axes:

Analyzing and evaluating the current status of population and development topics in view of the internal and external environment.

Foreseeing the future work of the national councils and committees of population and development in terms of their strategic vision for population and development topics and their goals.

Developing a road map showing the shift from the current situation towards future situation through a coherent strategic system.

Proposed Steps for Results-Oriented Strategic Planning of National Population Councils and Committees

First Stage: analyzing the current internal and external situation, defining programs and projects, preparing for strategic planning, and studying partners and stakeholders.

Second Stage: defining institutional vision, mission and values, building a matrix of issues, building goals and scope of work, and defining the methodology and framework.

Third Stage: preparing the follow-up and evaluation methodology, preparing the strategy, preparing evaluation and review criteria, improving infrastructure, human resources and financial resources.

PPC Technical Office participates in a national workshop on “Towards the Arab Horizon 2030: Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the Arab Region»; 26-27 October in Doha



The workshop was organized by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA), in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). It came within the framework of the efforts made by PSA, aimed at building national capacities in the field of results-based strategic planning, and preparing for the Third National Development Strategy 2023-2027. The workshop reflected PSA keenness to use the up-to-date methods and approaches in the field of development planning. This workshop fell under the framework of the activities of the Development Account (DA) project “Towards the Arab Horizon 2030: Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the Arab Region”. This workshop also was held in response to the recommendations of the “Arab Business Environment Legislative Framework” report prepared by ESCWA in 2021.

This workshop aimed to build national capacities of employees in ministries, government agencies, private sector, civil society organizations, universities, and research centers. It also aimed to familiarize them with recent developments in the field of development planning, in order to reach better approaches that can be adopted to develop the integrated development planning process in Qatar, with the aim of improving the business and investment environment in the recovery phase of Covid-19 pandemic, where it has become necessary to work to restore business in a more dynamic way.

The themes of the workshop dealt with ESCWA's tools, materials and approaches related to integrated development planning, the successes and challenges in national development planning in the State of Qatar, and public policies and regulatory reforms related to foreign direct investment. In order to ensure best results from this

workshop, specific topics were selected based on their importance and influence in the development planning process.

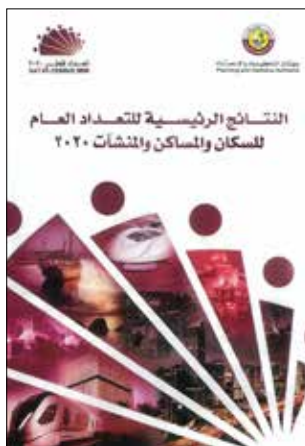
The workshop focused on national development planning, particularly on tools prepared by ESCWA in this field, and on the experience of the State of Qatar in the area of development planning, especially the Second National Development Strategy. Besides, it also dealt with more detailed topics related to the strategic aspirations of the State of Qatar aimed at building a diversified economy, in particular focusing on regulatory reforms relative to the business environment and foreign direct investment, and regulatory reforms in public policies, and how to integrate them in planning and implementing specific goals. This workshop was attended by a number of specialists in the field of development planning in the State of Qatar, from ministries and government agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations, representatives of universities and research centers, and representatives of United Nations organizations operating in the State of Qatar.

The workshop was inaugurated by HE Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al-Nabit, President of the Planning and Statistics Authority, and HE Dr. Rola Dashti, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA.

On this occasion, PSA President HE Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al-Nabit expressed his pleasure to cooperate with ESCWA, the rest of UN organizations operating in the State of Qatar, and with ministries, government agencies, the private sector and civil society in arranging for the preparation of the Third National Development Strategy 2023-2027, seeking to express the ambition of the Qatari society, and aiming to build a better life for all.

Studies and research

The Planning and Statistics Authority - The Main Results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2020, Doha 2021



This report presents the most important indicators of the main results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2020, with an analysis of the most important of those indicators. The report incorporates a number of tables covering all topics related to population, education, health, economic activity and establishments.

The actual kick-off of Census 2020 began in December 2020, past its scheduled date in April 2020, due to the conditions imposed by the preventive and precautionary measures to limit the infection and spread of (Covid-19) pandemic. The State of Qatar leads the region in the complete implementation of Census 2020 under the circumstances of the pandemic. Although these conditions continued until the date of the census implementation, nevertheless, PSA was able to overcome the difficulties and obstacles imposed by the pandemic and implement the census in its scheduled year, using all means that contributed to carrying out the census safely for the community.

Census 2020 is the sixth in a series of population censuses in the State of Qatar, as previous censuses were conducted in 1986, 1997, 2004, and 2010, as well as the 2015 «simplified» Census). Stat-of-the-art technology was used in the implementation of this census in all its phases, which contributed to the effective, robust and quick extraction of the main results with a high degree of accuracy.

The General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments is the only statistical process that is conducted through an all-inclusive survey for all elements of society (residents, buildings and components thereof, residential and non-residential units, and establishments). The Census is launched to collect all characteristics that ultimately make up a comprehensive and accurate database to serve planners, researchers, and policymakers.

It should be noted that censuses are an integral part of the integrated statistical system in developed and developing countries alike, as they provide accurate data and important information on various aspects of the society and on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population of that society. Such characteristics are considered an indispensable input in the formulation of development programs.

The Planning and Statistics Authority - The Annual Bulletin of Vital Statistics (Marriage and Divorce) 2020, Doha 2021.

The data presented in this bulletin are a result of cooperation between the Planning and Statistics Authority and Supreme

Judiciary Council as per the agreed variables displayed in the annexes. The data cover cases of Muslims' marriages and divorces that registered in the State of Qatar. This bulletin contains a number of terminologies, the most important of which is marriage, which is the legal union between husband and wife that is governed by Islamic laws; and divorce, which is the final legal dissolution of marriage contract in a legal manner between the husband and wife (Minor irrevocable divorce, revocable divorce, khul', major irrevocable divorce, unregistered), indicators and vital rates (crude marriage rate and divorce rates).



The Planning and Statistics Authority and Supreme Judiciary Council launched the electronic linkage of their databases to strengthen partnership and achieve a quantum leap in data exchange.

The Planning and Statistics Authority - Sample Labor Force Survey 2020, Doha, July 2021.

The Planning and Statistics Authority has carried out the Labor Force Sample Survey (LFSS) 2020 to outline the size and composition of the labor force in Qatar, in line with the country's steady growth in various socio-economic aspects, and the accompanying increasing demand for the labor force.



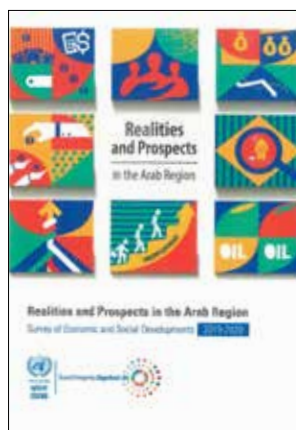
The importance of this survey lies in providing basic data about the relation between the labor market and the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population, such as education and occupations. It goes without saying that such data is imperative for the design and evaluation of the development policies and programs in the State, such as macroeconomic planning and human resources development.

The survey was implemented as per the recommendations of the International Labor Organization (ILO), where data are collected on

a monthly basis. The characteristics of the labor force are published on a quarterly basis via the PSA's website.

As for the objectives of the Survey, they are as follows:

- Estimation of labor force size in the State of Qatar.
- Distribution of labor force by different characteristics: age group, gender, educational level, marital status, employment status, economic activity, occupation, sector ... etc.



- Measurement of employment and unemployment levels in the State of Qatar.
- Measurement of unemployment.
- Study of the relationship between the occupation and educational specialization.
- Study of the population that falls outside the category of labor force by age group, gender, nationality, educational level, marital status, desire to work, reason for reluctance to work, and reason for leaving the previous work.
- Establishment of an updated database, and provision of the entire data and information necessary for conducting studies.

United Nations (ESCWA): Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region- Realities and Prospects 2019-2020, Beirut 2020.

The Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region is an annual flagship publication of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The publication seeks to contribute to efforts exerted by member States to reform economic institutions and develop and implement policies based on principles of good governance, so as to enable economic planning and policymaking in support of inclusive and sustainable development. The present 2019-2020 edition focuses on analyzing the most recent socioeconomic developments under a set format, with a main reporting period of January 2019 to March 2020. The publication has the following two key objectives: to analyze routinely monitored economic and social variables in the Arab region in a global context, and to address debt sustainability and the macroeconomic implications.

Providing an analysis of the global economic situation in mid-2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, is a challenging task. The outbreak has exerted tremendous pressure on the global economy, the scale of which is still unclear. Given that the pandemic will have significant repercussions in 2021 and beyond, it is crucial to understand how Arab countries are dealing with the economic impact of the virus. Consequently, the present report sets out two scenarios: a baseline scenario projecting that the economy will rebound in the first quarter of 2021; and a pessimistic scenario in which the crisis will persist throughout the first quarter of 2021. However, given the considerable advancements in research on COVID-19 vaccines, an economic rebound should be expected no

later than the second quarter of 2021.

The COVID-19 shock began in the midst of a global economic slowdown. The pandemic resulted in extensive lockdowns that placed significant pressure on the global economy, which is expected to have contracted by at least 3.2 per cent in 2020. The 2021 recovery is conditioned on the effectiveness of the stimulus packages enacted by Governments in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the speed of business recovery. Advancements in research on COVID-19 vaccines allow for moderate optimism. As a consequence, the global GDP growth in 2021 is expected to rebound to 4.2 per cent, even in the pessimistic scenario. However, if the packages enacted in 2020 prevent devastating losses for companies, global GDP growth could reach 5.4 per cent in 2021 in the baseline scenario.

Inflation in 2021 is conditioned on the influence of unprecedented monetary stimulus measures enacted by Governments worldwide in 2020 to tackle the pandemic-related recession. If they succeed in stimulating demand, inflation should rise. However, oil demand from China, the world's largest crude oil importer, decreased significantly in 2020 owing to massive lockdowns and huge cuts in transport activities. In December 2020, the price of Brent crude oil increased to \$48/barrel, which is still lower than its average for the period 2018-2019. However, following successful vaccination campaigns, global transport demand in 2021 should rise, further elevating oil prices and fueling inflation globally.

The global economic slowdown and the pandemic have significantly affected Arab countries. The region's GDP is estimated to have contracted by 3 per cent in 2020 (the baseline scenario) and exports from the region decreased by almost 50 per cent, affected by the decline in oil prices, the closure of European markets, and a reduction in tourism and remittances. Moreover, the global lockdown affected the inflow of investments and official development assistance to Arab oil-importing countries. Such developments led to tremendous pressure on businesses in the region in the absence of government assistance. Consequently, regional GDP growth is expected to reach 2.8 per cent in 2021 in the pessimistic scenario or 3.5 per cent in the baseline scenario.

The impact of the COVID-19 and oil price crises on Arab oil-exporting countries will continue into 2021, with revenues in 2020 estimated at 44 per cent of 2019 income, leading to a temporary dent in State budgets. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries were the most affected, losing around 54 per cent of their income. Their GDP is estimated to have contracted by 3.1 per cent in the baseline scenario, and by 7.1 per cent in the pessimistic scenario. However, in 2021, a rebound is expected in both oil prices and oil production, leading to GDP growth of 2.1 per cent in the pessimistic scenario, and of 2.3 per cent in the baseline scenario. The pandemic has significantly affected Arab middle-income countries (MICs), with their economy contracting. These countries were affected by a drop in tourism and a decline in demand for their exports owing to the recession in European countries, one of their main trading partners. Recovery will depend on the success of the stimulus packages of their trading partners, and on whether successful vaccination campaigns will restore confidence and consumption as before COVID-19.

Lebanon in particular is witnessing exceptional socioeconomic challenges that surfaced in 2019 and were aggravated in 2020 as the economy grappled with twin deficits, high public debt, a default on the repayment of Eurobonds, a large depreciation of the local currency, and a slowdown in economic activity owing to the lockdown. In 2020, the Lebanese economy contracted by an estimated 10.2 per cent, and no functioning government had been established as at December 2020. Arab middle-income countries are expected to achieve 4.1 per cent GDP growth in 2021 in the pessimistic scenario, and 5 per cent in the baseline predicated on a rebound in European demand and successful political and economic reforms.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the Near East and North Africa 2020.

This report highlights Food Security and Nutrition in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Region in 2020 and provides an update on regional progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2): ending hunger and achieving food security and ending all forms of malnutrition. This report is the result of collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). This report examines data available prior to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic that affected the region and the world in 2020. By 2019, the Arab



Region was already off track to achieve hunger and nutrition-related SDG targets by 2030. In fact, after good progress during past decades, since 2015-17 the number of undernourished people in the region has been increasing steadily. In 2019, the number of hungry people stood at 51.4 million, or 12.2 percent of the region's population. If such trends continue, even ignoring the potential impact of Covid-19, the number of undernourished in the region will exceed 75 million people by 2030.

The report also highlights that in 2019 nearly one-third of the region's population 137 million people, did not have regular access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Food insecurity, affecting diet quality and quantity, poses significant challenges to achieving global nutrition targets. Many countries in the region still show high levels of stunting and overweight in children under 5 years of age. Though there are insufficient data to establish clear childhood malnutrition indicators in all countries, 2019 trends indicated that only a few countries are likely to meet the SDG targets for 2030 on stunting (3 out of 22) and wasting (7 out of 22), while none are on track to fulfil the WHA (World Health Assembly) targets for 2025. Furthermore, no country in the region is on track to meet 2025 WHA targets for anemia in women of reproductive age or adult obesity.

The above trends in hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition have largely been driven by conflict and violence in the region as well as the lack of capacity for current food systems to support healthy diets. Food security and nutrition prospects in the region are likely to worsen in view of the overwhelming economic disruptions caused by Covid-19, which has generated rising numbers of vulnerable people with limited access to healthy, balanced diets. Given the large disparities among Arab Region countries in terms of their economic and political situation, as well as resilience capacities, Covid-19 has had varied impacts on food security

and nutrition. Countries with fragile economies and those in protracted crisis are the worst affected.

This report examines the vulnerability of Arab food systems to various shocks, natural or human-induced, aggravated by stresses which limit their resilience capacity and ability to deliver sustainable, healthy diets for all. As the analysis in this report suggests, more than half the region's population cannot afford a healthy diet. Diet quality has major implications not only for food security and nutrition, but also for human health and the environment. Therefore, the report highlights the costs and the importance of healthy diets and their affordability. We believe that the recommendations contained in the report offer the countries of the Arab region with avenues to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of their food systems and accelerate progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Most of these recommendations relate to policy, which addresses regulatory and management frameworks, food supply and demand, and health and nutrition, which when implemented will provide healthy diets and positive nutritional outcomes for people throughout the region.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - Strategic Plan 2022-2025. New York 2021

This report was published in a critical moment for the world, and for development. A planetary emergency prevails in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic which have depleted the world's natural resources and widened poverty and inequality. As a result, up to one billion people could be living in extreme poverty by 2030 unless world's countries seize this opportunity for a decisive push towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report confirms that the world is at a crucial moment to learn from our experience of facing the pandemic, and thus to do things differently, and to aspire to achieve greater goals. This new Joint Strategic Plan 2022-2025 describes how UNDP intends to work with partner countries in this exceptional phase. This requires more efforts and cooperation across and outside the revitalized United Nations system in order to achieve stronger collective results; applying an integrated approach aimed at bringing about fundamental change; with the support of governments and local communities to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build better.



The Strategic Plan is grounded in UNDP's continued commitment to eradicating poverty, accompanying countries in their pathways towards the SDGs and working towards the Paris Agreement. It envisions bold goals, making a difference to millions of lives, including through tackling multidimensional poverty, energy access, elections participation and development financing. It explains how UNDP will develop our six signature solutions - powered by digitalization, innovation and development financing - for greater impact. It sets out UNDP's steps towards becoming an even more agile and anticipatory organization, investing further in the business

model and operational excellence based on the program's deep local experience, rich global network, and leveraging countries' knowledge and shared experiences to deliver added value to partners. It also describes how the program will foster innovation and creativity to help change systems and tackle the hardest challenges standing between us and the SDGs. All this aims to scale and accelerate progress towards green, inclusive transitions that empower every last person through greater inclusive opportunity and resilience for a more faire future envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that balances the sustainability of the planet's resources and the development of its people.

The World Bank. World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives - Washington 2021

Data, which are growing at an unprecedented rate, are becoming an integral part of the daily lives of most people everywhere. But how does that matter for the more than 700 million people living in extreme poverty? Is the explosion in the new types and uses of data improving their lives? Or will poor people and poor countries be left behind, creating a widening gap between those who reap the benefits of this new data-driven world and those who do not? The innovations resulting from the creative new uses of data could prove to be one of the most life-changing events of this era for everyone. Like many general-purpose technologies such as the steam engine and electricity, the transformations emerging from the data revolution could touch all aspects of societies and economies. But such sweeping changes are not automatic. The productivity value of the steam engine and electricity was realized decades after they were first introduced. The delay occurred not because people did not recognize the importance of these innovations.

Just as electricity itself did not result in economic development, data alone will not improve well-being. Data can improve social and economic outcomes, but only if they are used systematically in ways that create information that generates insights that improve lives. This Report aims to answer two fundamental questions. First, how can data better advance development objectives? Second, what kind of data governance arrangements are needed to support the generation and use of data in a safe, ethical, and secure way while also delivering value equitably? One important message of this Report is that simply gathering more data is not the answer.



If there are significant data shortfalls, particularly in poor countries, then the aim of this Report is to shift the focus toward using data more effectively to improve development outcomes, particularly for poor people in poor countries. Part One of this Report develops a conceptual framework that links data to development through three institutional pathways. The middle pathway is the use of data by governments and international organizations to support evidence-based policy making and improved service delivery. The top pathway is the use of data by civil society to monitor the effects of government policies and by individuals to enable them to monitor and access public and commercial services. The bottom pathway is the use of data by private firms in the production process— use that fuels their own growth as well as wider economic growth. One implication of the conceptual framework is that data alone cannot solve development problems: people (in society, governments, and firms) are the central actors transforming data into useful information that can improve livelihoods and lives.¹ Alongside capital, land, and labor, data are also an input to the development objectives that emerge along all three pathways. But, unlike capital, land, and labor, using data once does not diminish its value. Data that were initially collected with one intention can be reused for a completely different purpose.



Picture of the Issue: Barzan Towers, Qatar.