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PATHWAY
TO PEACE



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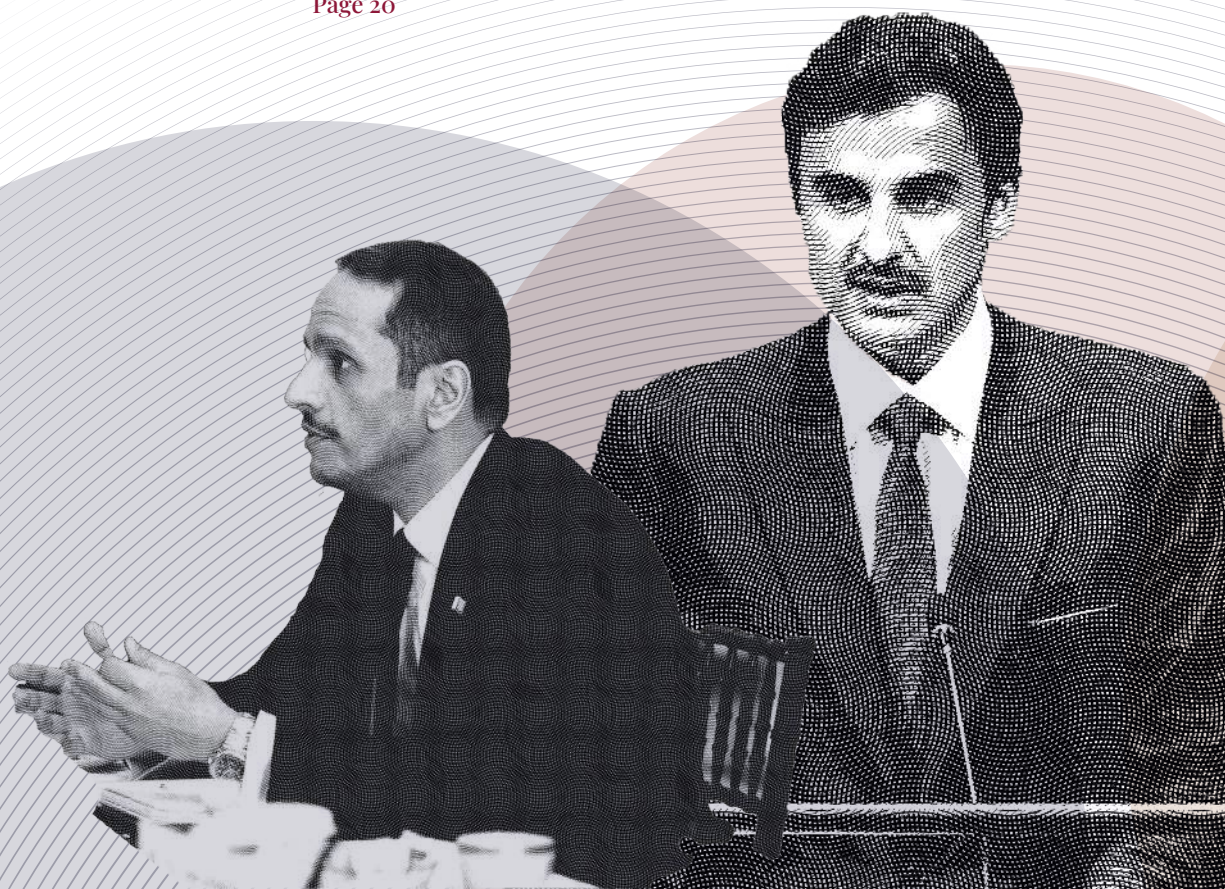
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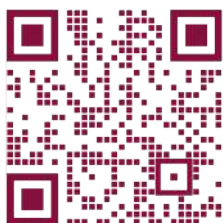
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Foreword

Advancing global peace and security has long been a core pillar of Qatar's foreign policy. From being a globally recognised destination for diplomatic mediation to playing a leading role in humanitarian aid efforts, Qatar's contributions rely on the tireless work of countless individuals and organisations dedicated to creating a more stable and secure world.

It is a pleasure to introduce this latest edition of Q Life Magazine, which sheds light on Qatar's efforts both at home and abroad.

In today's interconnected world, cooperation is essential for global peace and prosperity. Driven by this worldview, Qatar has cultivated its role as a renowned global mediator, trusted by nations and groups to facilitate delicate peace negotiations. While not every mediation leads to immediate conflict resolution, we strongly believe that bringing groups together to discuss their differences is a critical first step towards peace and reconciliation. As a result of our work, "the Doha Accords" and "the Doha Peace Agreement" have become globally synonymous with diplomatic mediation on the world stage.

Within the global network of actors working to strengthen the multilateral system, the United Nations stands as an unparalleled vehicle for international collaboration. Through Qatar's partnerships with the UN, we lead international peacebuilding initiatives, supporting global development, promoting human rights, and addressing the numerous challenges facing the world. The opening of the United Nations House in Doha in March 2023 represents a symbolic deepening of Qatar's commitment to this partnership.

Humanitarian aid continues to be a pillar of Qatar's contribution to the global community, as we collaborate with our partners to alleviate poverty, hunger, and unemployment, creating a lasting impact on the lives of millions of people. Over the past decade, Qatar has undertaken countless humanitarian and development operations across the world led by the Qatar Fund for Development, Education Above All, Qatar Red Crescent Society, and other charitable groups.

In light of the numerous interrelated threats facing the world, from economic shocks to humanitarian crises, international cooperation is needed now more than ever. As you read through these pages, you will hear from the individuals who continue to work to support multilateralism and tackle the interconnected challenges of today.

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs for the State of Qatar

Sheraton Grand Doha

A backdrop for peace

The first luxury resort in Qatar, the Sheraton Grand Doha opened its doors on 22 February 1982. Affectionately referred to as “The Pyramid of the Gulf”, the iconic resort and convention hotel has not only welcomed tourists but also greeted international delegations and dignitaries at its gates.

Strategically located in the West Bay district next to the city’s Corniche, the property has become a favoured meeting point for official discussions and international conferences, such as the annual Doha Forum.

Over the years, as Qatar solidified its position as a global mediator, the Sheraton Grand Doha became the backdrop for many of the country’s initiatives in international mediation. From the historic Doha peace talks in 2008, which brought an end to Lebanon’s political crisis, to the signing of the Doha Agreement in 2020, marking the resolution of a nearly two-decade-long war in Afghanistan, the building’s hallowed halls have witnessed pivotal and historic moments in international conflict resolution. While challenging, these talks relied on bringing together disputing parties and finding common ground – all with the aim of supporting global peace and security.

Once a solitary structure jutting out along Doha’s crescent bay, the Sheraton Grand Doha now stands as an iconic landmark within Qatar’s shimmering skyline. As the country continues to expand its role as a global mediator, the Sheraton Grand Doha will remain an enduring symbol of Qatar’s story – past, present, and future.





Qatar's mediation efforts

1962

Involvement in Évian Accords
between France and Algeria

2008

Doha Peace Talks and Doha Agreement
bringing a political consensus to Lebanon

2008 - 2010

Mediation between the Yemeni
Government and the Houthi groups

2008 - 2013

Mediation between the
Sudanese Government and
the Justice and Equality
Movement in Darfur



2009

Mediation between Sudan and Chad, resulting in the Doha Accord

2014

Release of 13 Maaloula nuns held by rebels in Syria

2012

Mediation between Fatah and Hamas resulting in the 2012 Doha Agreement

2010

Ceasefire agreement mediated between Djibouti and Eritrea

2013

Release of Swiss woman held hostage by Yemeni tribesmen

2014

Release of US journalist and 45 UN peacekeepers in Syria

2011

Mediation between Sudan and Eritrea

2014

Ceasefire between Hamas and Israel

2014

Hostage exchange between the US and the Taliban



2015

Hostage exchange freeing 16
Lebanese soldiers held in Syria

2015

Peace talks between
Libya Tabou and
Touareg tribes

2015

Mediation between
Fatah and Hamas

2015

Release of four Tajik border
soldiers from Afghanistan

2016

Release of a Canadian
citizen held by the
Taliban in Afghanistan

2016

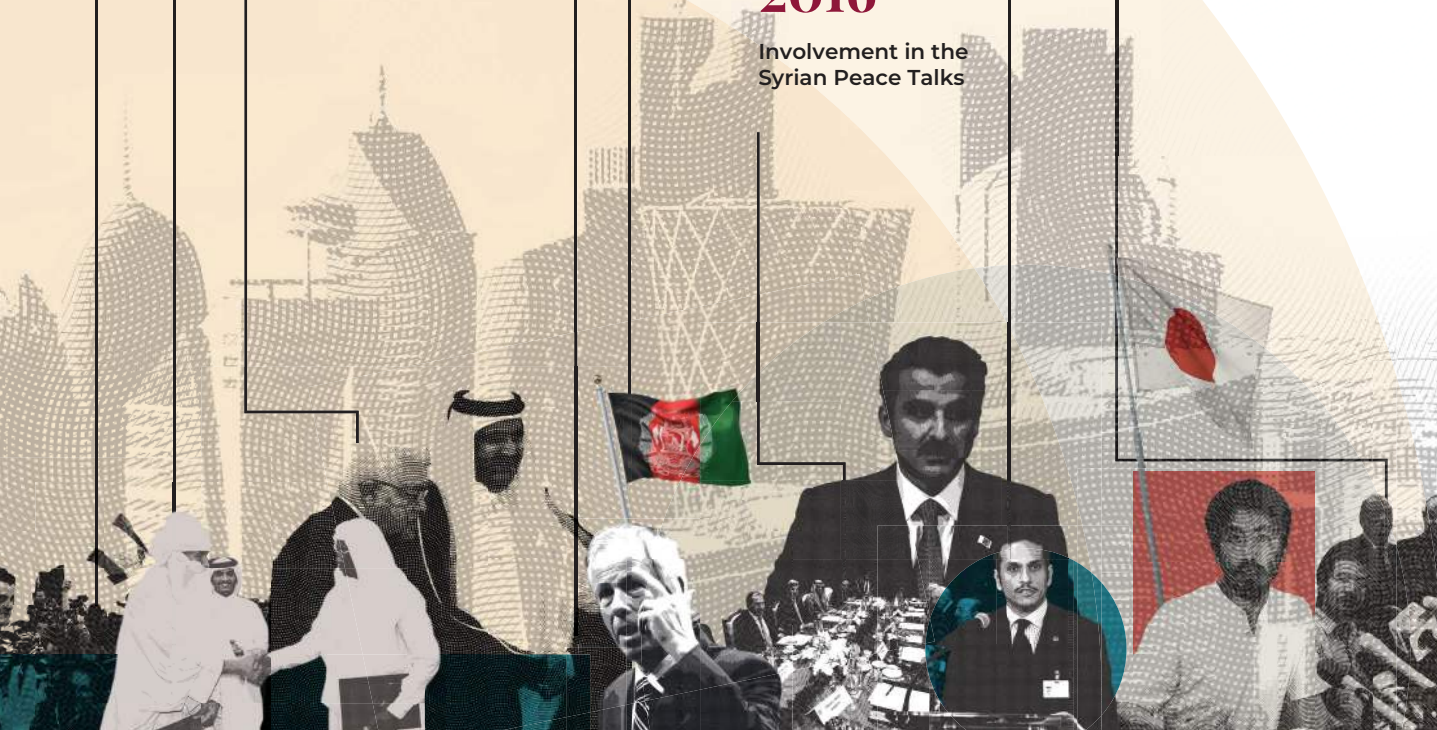
Involvement in the
Syrian Peace Talks

2016

Release of Djiboutian
prisoners of war held
by Eritrea

2018

Release of Japanese
journalist held in Syria



2019

Hostage exchange
freeing US and
Australian citizens held
by the Taliban in
Afghanistan

2020

US – Taliban
mediation rounds

2020

Ceasefire between
 Hamas and Israel

2021

Ceasefire between
 Hamas and Israel

2021

Mediation between
 Kenya and Somalia

2022

Doha Peace Agreement signed
between Chad's Transitional
Military Council and Chadian
opposition groups

2023

Mediation between the
Democratic Republic of
the Congo and Rwanda



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Qatar and mediation

Qatar has a longstanding commitment to advancing global peace and security through conflict mediation.

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A mediator's perspective



**Insights from Qatar's Minister of State for
International Cooperation**

Building bridges, shaping futures

As the Minister of State for International Cooperation for the State of Qatar, Her Excellency Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater has been instrumental in the country's efforts to support development and provide humanitarian assistance, including during the evacuation of over 100,000 individuals from Afghanistan.

“International cooperation means enabling opportunities, saving lives, and fulfilling Qatar’s objectives in development diplomacy”, explains HE Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater.

Since joining Qatar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017, HE Al Khater has been actively involved in several initiatives that have given her hope for the future of international cooperation, with Qatar’s leading role in the Afghan evacuation being a significant example.

In August 2021, Qatar facilitated the evacuation and repatriation of more than 100,000 individuals from Afghanistan, including Afghan students, teachers, activists, and musicians. Qatar additionally received and facilitated thousands of evacuation requests from around the world, including from governments, international news publications, NGOs, international organisations, and social media companies.

HE Al Khater was on the ground in Qatar during the evacuation process: “I had the privilege of encountering extraordinary individuals from different walks of life. However, the most common characteristic I found among our Afghan brothers and sisters was their unwavering hope for a prosperous life, which inevitably instilled hope within me as well”.

Throughout the evacuation process, Qatar provided a safe and comfortable haven for Afghan evacuees, housing them in Qatar while they awaited transit to their final destinations. These evacuees were accommodated in furnished units initially developed for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

They were provided with meals, free quality healthcare, and basic amenities. “It is important to note that the evacuees had direct access to three on-site clinics, a field hospital, a mental health clinic, and a dedicated mental health hotline”, adds HE Al Khater.

Since the evacuations, Qatar has continued to support the aspirations of the Afghan people for security, stability, and development, while striving

to promote the rights of women, children, and marginalised groups. “Most recently, Qatar has been facilitating track II dialogues in Doha that put all aspects of the Afghan civil society from different backgrounds on the same table to discuss the various issues facing the Afghan people and come up with solutions to push Afghanistan towards prosperity”, HE Al Khater explains.

Qatar’s efforts in Afghanistan illustrate and align with Article 7 of the Constitution, which states that Qatar’s foreign policy is based on the principle of promoting international peace and security. Moreover, Qatar’s commitment to dialogue and engagement to resolve disputes have made it an ideal candidate for a mediation role in any conflict.



“**Qatar’s role is practiced through active mediation, humanitarian and development assistance, as well as counter-terrorism efforts.**”

HE Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater
Minister of State for International Cooperation
for the State of Qatar

Education in exile

The inspiring story of the 'Afghan Dreamers'

The 'Afghan Dreamers', an all-girls robotics team from Herat, Afghanistan, have captured hearts and minds with their remarkable journey of determination and success in the face of severe obstacles.

Founded in 2017, the team first made global headlines by winning a special award at the FIRST Global Robotics Competition in Washington, DC.

When the political situation in Afghanistan deteriorated in August 2021, the Dreamers were in dire need of emergency support. The team's parent organisation, the US-based Digital Citizen Fund, sought Qatar's assistance just three days before the Taliban took control of Kabul.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, Qatar swiftly organised a flight for the girls to Doha, expedited their visas, and ensured they were safely evacuated. The Government of Qatar, alongside Qatar Foundation, provided logistical support to ensure a smooth transition for the talented girls as they left their home country to continue their studies.



The 'Afghan Dreamers' robotics team

In Qatar, the girls' studies were sponsored by Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Qatar Foundation (QF), with their education continuing at QF's Academic Bridge Program – allowing a connection between the stage of their education they had reached in Afghanistan, and their future learning journey at universities in Qatar or abroad.

Roya Mahboob, the leader of the 'Afghan Dreamers', was honoured with the Doha Forum 2022 Award for her outstanding efforts in empowering young Afghan girls. As the CEO of the Digital Citizen Fund, Roya has dedicated her life to promoting digital literacy among women and children.

Upon receiving her award, Roya shared her belief that no matter where a child is from, if you give them the right tools and high-quality education – their lives can change for the better.

Today, with additional support from QFFD, members of the robotics team are continuing their educational journeys at prestigious universities around the world. The girls' time in Qatar has not only nurtured their dreams, but also instilled in them a determination to make a difference in their homeland. The 'Afghan Dreamers' have set no limit to their ambitions: from establishing STEM-focused schools to improving healthcare services across Afghanistan. This is just the beginning of their extraordinary and inspiring story.

From crisis to resolution

A mediator's perspective

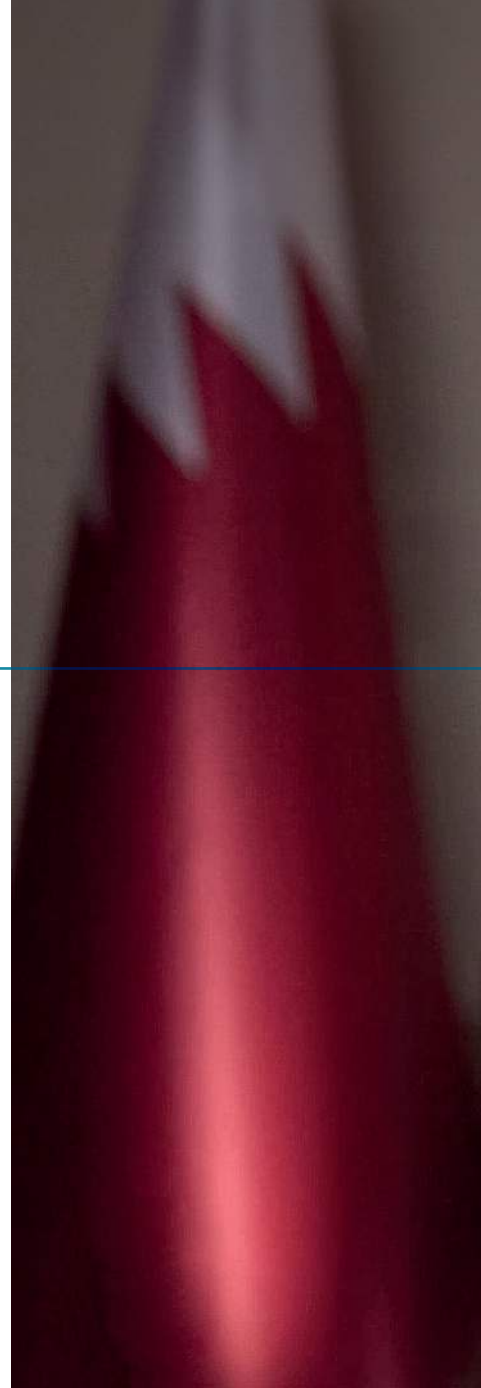
His Excellency Dr. Mutlaq bin Majed Al Qahtani is the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counterterrorism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution. With a wealth of experience mediating disputes of global significance, HE Dr. Mutlaq offers valuable insights into the field of mediation.

What first interested you in mediation and how did you get into this field?

My interest dates back to studying international law in university and becoming aware of mediation's importance as an effective tool to settle international disputes.

When I joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in July 1995, this coincided with Qatar's growing focus on using mediation as a fundamental element of its foreign policy. Over the past 25 years, mediation has remained a priority in Qatar's foreign affairs, skillfully managed by its leaders.

As complex challenges have been resolved, my dedication to its practice has only grown, and I'm always inspired by the unwavering support and confidence from my colleagues.





Do you have a specific memory you feel demonstrates the importance of mediation?

A recent experience that stands out is Qatar's mediation between the United States and the Taliban.

Despite difficult geopolitical conditions and challenges that have hit the country in recent decades, our mediation efforts succeeded in bringing both parties to a historic agreement, resulting in a momentous signing ceremony in Doha in February 2020.

Undoubtedly, this work will remain firmly embedded in Qatar's mediation history for decades to come, underscoring the importance of mediation not only for the State of Qatar but also highlighting our position as a reliable international and regional mediator amid the most complex and trying circumstances.



What sets Qatar apart from other countries that play an active role in international mediation?

Qatar's international reputation as a global mediator is well-regarded for many reasons, the most important of which is its credibility, transparency, and impartiality. Qatar also has the flexibility and ability to communicate with all parties despite potential cultural differences.

Qatar does not have a hidden agenda and does not seek to exploit the economic and political conditions of others. Instead, our main goal is to help countries achieve prosperity and sustainable development. These values set Qatar apart and mean that many parties willingly seek out our help to resolve their conflicts.

Considering your experience, what are the key factors to consider before agreeing to mediate?

First, it must be assessed whether mediation can help the situation at hand. This involves evaluating the seriousness and credibility of the parties involved, understanding their objectives, and determining if there is a genuine possibility of resolving the conflict through mediation.

Secondly, information gathering must take place to understand the root causes of the conflict, the parties involved, and any previous attempts at resolving the issue.

Thirdly, work is required to create momentum and seek regional and international consensus, consulting with regional and international partners where needed.

Moreover, it is important to be flexible, patient, adaptable, and understand the cultural sensitivities of the parties involved – there is no single solution that applies to all conflicts. The process of negotiation and mediation lies in the mediator's ability to find consensus between all parties.

What would you define as a successful mediation effort?

The role and responsibility of the mediator is to make every effort to achieve the best possible outcome, but the ultimate success of the negotiations depends on the parties involved.

It is important to distinguish between signing a peace agreement and its actual implementation. The mediator guides the parties towards reaching an acceptable resolution and signing the agreement. This is how success in mediation is measured. However, the responsibility for implementing the agreement rests primarily with the parties themselves and their commitment to respecting each other's culture, beliefs, and the geopolitical context of the negotiation.

What would you ultimately like people to remember when it comes to Qatar's mediation work?

That Qatar is a peace-loving country, a country that does not seek fame for its mediation efforts, a country where our sole focus is accomplishing regional and global peace and stability. I am confident that the State of Qatar and its leadership has the ability to settle many crises to come, when the conditions are appropriate for our mediation.

HE Dr. Mutlaq bin Majed Al Qahtani with
HE Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan

2





Qatar and the United Nations

A member of the United Nations since 1971, Qatar is committed to working with the international community to promote global peace and unity.

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The UN House in Doha: A new pillar of
multilateralism in the Gulf



Her Excellency Sheikha Alya bint Ahmed Al Thani

Leading on the global stage

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Her Excellency Sheikha Alya bint Ahmed Al Thani discusses her decade-long role breaking down barriers for women in foreign affairs, and leading Qatar's efforts to be a global partner for peace.

With nearly a decade of experience as Permanent Representative to the UN, HE Sheikha Alya bint Ahmed Al Thani works from the UN Headquarters in New York, engaging in negotiations and collaborating with fellow representatives to seek solutions to global issues.

"Qatar's role at the United Nations has evolved, and its impact has grown significantly since I took up the position of Permanent Representative", reflects HE Sheikha Alya.

While most only witness the public outcomes of diplomatic work, HE Sheikha Alya explains that the extensive work behind-the-scenes is often overlooked, which requires both time and patience. That patience was invaluable when HE Sheikha Alya was called to lead the intergovernmental negotiations around the 75th anniversary of the UN, against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HE Sheikha Alya bint Ahmed Al Thani

In February 2020, just weeks before New York City and much of the world went into lockdown, HE Sheikha Alya began six months of negotiations, culminating in the adoption by all heads of state and governments of the "Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the UN", the UN75 Declaration, as it became known.

HE Sheikha Alya recalls: "I am extremely proud that the UN75 Declaration presents a vision for a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. It is a manifesto for multilateralism as the only way to handle today's crises and build a better future. It focuses on everyone in the world, not least youths, older people, and future generations".

To facilitate such successful diplomacy, Qatar has dedicated many years to establishing strong and trusted global partnerships, contributing to a wide range of UN-led programmes, including those that support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). HE Sheikha Alya does not shy away from Qatar's impact: "Our contributions have supported and sustained vital relief efforts, reconstruction projects, and initiatives addressing urgent humanitarian needs".

A standout pillar of this international collaboration and support has been in education. Explaining that Qatar has now supported education projects worth \$1 billion worldwide, HE Sheikha Alya describes how Qatar has become a leading advocate for quality and inclusive education in conflict zones and amid humanitarian emergencies.

"We recognise that without education, sustainable development and peace are unattainable. Access to quality education is a fundamental right and an essential driver of social development and inclusivity".

“

Qatar is now a top donor, we are involved across all pillars of the UN, and I can say our strategic partnership is growing stronger by the year, on a wide range of issues.

**HE Sheikha Alya bint
Ahmed Al Thani**
Permanent Representative
of the State of Qatar to the UN



The UN House in Doha

A new pillar of multilateralism in the Gulf

A culmination of Qatar's fifty-plus years of partnership with the United Nations, the new United Nations House in Doha brings together top UN agencies to improve peace, development, and help the international community tackle some of the most important global challenges of our time.

His Excellency the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and UN Secretary-General António Guterres joined a host of dignitaries to inaugurate the building in March 2023. Situated in Lusail, Qatar's "city of the future", the UN House will coordinate the regional work of entities such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

A testament to Qatar's role as a collaborative member of the international community, there is "no doubt the new United Nations House in Qatar will develop into a hub for UN activities in the region, becoming a new pillar of multilateralism in the Gulf area", said Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th session of the General Assembly, at the opening event.

Advisor to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Majed bin Mohammed Al Ansari, described the house as "an opportunity to enhance cooperation between the United Nations member states and strengthen dialogue and understanding between them, along with providing diplomatic and legal facilities and services to countries in the region".

This partnership will further enhance Qatar's existing track record of collaboration with the UN in combating the world's most complex challenges. From 2013 to 2022, Qatar has contributed approximately \$900 million in financial aid to UN organisations. In addition to regular financial support, Qatar has hosted several

UN conferences, including the most recent 2023 UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and has welcomed UN offices to facilitate regional coordination.

The UN House in Doha is a tribute to the friendship between the State of Qatar and the UN. It stands as a visible reminder of the country's commitment to multilateral principles in addressing existing and emerging global challenges, while working collectively towards a more peaceful world for all.

“

This is more than just a building — it is a place to unite the work of the United Nations in Qatar and beyond — bringing together development, humanitarian and diplomatic work under one roof.

António Guterres
UN Secretary-General

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs with UN Secretary-General António Guterres



3





Qatar and humanitarian assistance

Not only is Qatar a significant donor of humanitarian aid, the country has provided substantial logistics and operational support globally – particularly in recent history.

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Qatar Red Crescent Society: Timely aid for Türkiye-Syria earthquake victims

His Excellency Khalifa bin Jassim Al Kuwari

Making a difference around the world

His Excellency Khalifa bin Jassim Al Kuwari is the Director General of Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) – the agency responsible for implementing Qatar’s foreign aid policies. To date, QFFD has reached more than 46 million people in over 100 countries worldwide.

What interested you in working in international development?

In our line of work, you’re in the front seat witnessing natural crises, wars, disparities, and inequalities that unfortunately impact the lives of millions of people. The remarkable part of running a development agency is that you have a real opportunity to make a difference and improve the lives and livelihoods of individuals, communities, and regions. Only a few other career pathways can offer something similar at such a global level.





As a public servant, you're assigned to where you're needed most. In my case, I was tasked in 2014 with using my experience and strong organisational, financial, and management skills, to lead QFFD's internal restructuring efforts. This was during our transition from a government-run to independently-run organisation, during which I also oversaw development and humanitarian operations.

In what ways have you seen the positive impact of QFFD on people's lives?

Since 2014, the Fund has allocated and disbursed more than \$6 billion in development and humanitarian interventions – reaching millions of people worldwide.

One of the touching stories that always comes to mind is that of Noor Jouma. A young woman was born and raised in Syria, Noor was convinced that education was her family's only ticket out of



poverty. She applied for scholarships for four years, but was repeatedly denied because one of the requirements was to carry a national identity card – which she had lost.

Imagine a scenario where your future hangs on having access to one small piece of paper. When we heard about Noor's profile, she was immediately awarded a scholarship funded by QFFD through our strategic partners at Education Above All Foundation's Al Fakhoora programme.

Thanks to the programme, Noor was offered an opportunity in Jordan, studying business management at the Luminus Technical University College. She has since graduated and now works at the same university, making excellent use of all her abilities and accomplishments.

Is there something you wish people knew about QFFD and international development, that often is misunderstood?

An aspect that is often misunderstood about QFFD and the international development realm more widely, is the complexity and long-term nature of the work. Development takes time. It is not a quick fix, but a gradual process that involves addressing root causes and promoting systemic change. Understanding this point helps dispel misconceptions and provide a more accurate picture of the complexities and nuances involved in international development work.

At a time when the world is seemingly witnessing an increasing number of crises, how does QFFD work to make the biggest impact on those in need?

Through our Emergency Response Management team, QFFD is often one of the first responders to both natural and manmade crises. For example, when the devastating earthquake hit the southern region of Türkiye and northern parts of Syria in February this year, QFFD mobilised immediate relief aid to both countries in less than 72 hours.

Our humanitarian apparatus, including that of Qatari partners and other government agencies, sent hospital supplies, medicine, food, water, hygiene kits, hot meals, tents and blankets, which were crucial for saving lives and treating the wounded. Overall, QFFD delivered 10,000 mobile houses to Türkiye in less than two months - which were providing dignified long-term temporary shelters for over 50,000 people.

We took similar measures when the conflict erupted in Sudan in April 2023. One thing that is certain is the occurrence and magnitude of natural disasters, as well as the frequency and protracted nature of civil conflicts and wars. It is taking a toll on the global humanitarian system, in which we actively participate as partners. At QFFD, we are committed to continuing our efforts in saving lives and ensuring that, along with our aid partners, we are present where we are needed most.

HE Khalifa bin Jassim Al Kuwari



Dr. Maleiha Malik

On a mission to protect education from attack

In an interview with Q Life, Executive Director of the Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC) programme at Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, Dr. Maleiha Malik, highlights the organisation's efforts to provide education to vulnerable and marginalised children around the world.

EAA is an international foundation set up in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. Its mission is to bring hope and opportunities to improve the lives of poor and marginalised children, youth, and women.

Dr. Malik has led PEIC's policy research, thought leadership and advocacy since 2017, while also mentoring younger colleagues in the field. She is one of the foundation's many dedicated advocates who contribute to the organisation's work on a daily basis.

"It is crucial to prioritise education during situations of conflict because that is precisely when the power of education is most needed", says Dr. Malik.

Dr. Malik's journey into the realm of global development began as an undergraduate law student, where she gained a passion for the field during a project in Jordan. Since then, her career has led her to embark on projects around the world, from developing higher education institutions in Pakistan and India to legal reform in Vietnam.

Bringing this experience to EAA, Dr. Malik describes how the foundation's mission to transform lives during times of conflict sets it apart as an ambitious organisation, committed to breaking barriers and ensuring universal access to education.

EAA leaves a profound impact on children's lives, opening the doors to education and paving the way for a better tomorrow.



“When there is a war or armed conflict, schools are a haven for children to feel safe, find community and to play”, she says. “Moreover, as the length of conflicts has now increased to decades rather than years, it is essential that we do not wait until conflict has ended before we provide quality education that is a key resource to help communities end conflict and to build peace”, adds Dr. Malik.

Among the various ways EAA helps children in difficult settings is by building schools in remote or underserved areas, providing financial support for families who cannot afford schooling costs, and offering psychosocial support for children affected by conflict or disaster. By tailoring its interventions to the specific needs and contexts of the communities it serves, EAA ensures that more children have the opportunity to access quality primary education.

EAA is lighting up the path of education for children in developing countries, ensuring a brighter future for all.

Today, EAA has commitments to reach 15 million out-of-school children and youth in more than 60 countries and has provided \$2.6 billion in investment to achieve this. Its relentless advocacy has contributed to global initiatives such as Safe Schools Declaration and the International Day to Protect Education from Attack.

As Dr. Malik aptly puts it, “Through foundations like Education Above All, Qatar is not just a benefactor, but a strategic partner, actively engaging in multiple international agendas such as transforming education, health, nutrition, and poverty alleviation”.

With the Education Above All Foundation at the forefront of the path towards inclusive and equitable quality education for all, the world can look more confidently towards a future where education truly becomes a catalyst for positive change, unlocking the full potential of every child, and shaping a brighter world for everyone.



Did you know?

In 2020, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 9 September as the **International Day to Protect Education from Attack**. The resolution was called for by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All Foundation, and co-sponsored by 64 countries.



“

Our challenge now, as an international community, is to translate our vision of education for all from political will into real change on the ground.

HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser
Chairperson of Qatar Foundation
and Education Above All

Humanitarian response

Timely aid for Türkiye-Syria earthquake victims

The devastating effects of the earthquake that struck northern Syria and Türkiye reverberated across the world. With a rising death toll and structural damage to thousands of buildings, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) immediately mobilised its teams to provide emergency aid and medical support.

After a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit southern Türkiye near the border with Syria in early February 2023, thousands were immediately killed and many thousands more left injured, homeless, and trapped in the rubble.

When the call came for international help, the State of Qatar was well placed to respond. QRCS had been working in Syria since 2012, with relief personnel stationed in the northern region and a representation office in Gaziantep, southern Türkiye.

As a result, QRCS had gained extensive experience in responding to the humanitarian needs of people in the region.





The State of Qatar quickly launched a massive relief operation. From emergency aid shipments to medical missions and the construction of a residential city, QRCS and other key national organisations embarked on a rapid and coordinated response.

QRCS initiated an airlift operation into Türkiye, delivering vital relief aid to the afflicted areas. With a logistical delegation and trucks laden with supplies, QRCS then became the first organisation to deliver aid into Syria, ensuring its distribution to the most affected communities.

Within the first 48 hours, 4,200 food parcels were distributed, providing essential supplies to those

grappling with the aftermath of the disaster. These immediate relief packages were soon replaced with more substantial emergency aid shipments, bolstering the distribution of relief across the region.

Recognising the urgent need for medical expertise, QRCS swiftly deployed three delegations of specialist doctors equipped with crucial medical supplies. Their arrival provided much needed emergency healthcare services, with 300 surgeries performed and 966 medical examinations conducted. The establishment of four mobile clinics proved to be a lifeline for approximately 35,000 affected people.

Once the immediate response plan was in place, QRCS led on the construction of a residential city in northern Syria, catering to the needs of 50,000 internally displaced people (IDPs). This groundbreaking initiative included temporary homes and a comprehensive range of public amenities such as mosques, shops, schools, and health centres. A further 437-tent IDP camp was established in Afrin, while an existing camp was expanded with the addition of 150 new tents to accommodate affected families.

The response of QRCS and other Qatari organisations in the wake of the Türkiye-Syria earthquake exemplifies Qatar's expertise in humanitarian relief efforts and its unwavering dedication to helping those in need. Today, Qatar continues to support reconstruction plans aimed at bringing prosperity back to the affected regions.

QRCS swiftly responding to the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Türkiye-Syria.

Did you know?

Qatar Red Crescent Society's response to the Türkiye-Syria Earthquake was part of a carefully orchestrated relief effort by the State of Qatar. Within the first 15 days following the earthquake, the State of Qatar:

- Flew 40 humanitarian flights carrying supplies from Qatar to Türkiye
- Donated more than \$150 million of humanitarian aid including food and medical aid for victims in Türkiye and northern Syria
- Delivered 10,000 mobile homes that were previously used as accommodation during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 for those affected by the earthquake
- Established three field hospitals providing recovery and emergency care services





QRCS steps to activate humanitarian relief



1

QRCS's Disaster Management Information Center (DMIC) has systems in place that continuously monitor for disasters around the world.

2

When a disaster occurs, the DMIC prepares a situation report, assessing the scale of the event, the basic needs of those affected, and the humanitarian work currently being carried out.



3

Planning the response

If the criteria for intervention are met, an emergency response plan is drafted, including the proposed areas for relief and the estimated implementation time.

4

Budgeting

The budget for launching the humanitarian appeal is estimated and submitted. Once approved, QRCS's Contingency Disaster Response Fund allocates the necessary funds for the intervention.

5

Fundraising

After the humanitarian appeal is issued, a fundraising campaign is launched under the supervision of a special committee with representatives from across the organisation.

6

Gathering support

The Relief and Disaster Management Department contacts local and international partners to coordinate response plans. To solicit support from the Government of Qatar, an intervention plan is sent to Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, QFFD, and other key authorities.



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The most rewarding moment for relief workers is witnessing the happiness of beneficiaries upon receiving humanitarian aid.

Qatar Red Crescent Society

About Q Life

Q Life is a platform dedicated to the people and ideas that are spurring advances in sports, the arts, business and culture in Qatar.

With human development being at the centre of the Qatar National Vision 2030, Q Life continues to amplify the stories of those in Qatar creating a positive impact within their communities, both at home and abroad.

From one-on-one interviews with Qatar's most creative minds, to uncovering the many unknown stories hidden around every corner, Q Life promises to educate global audiences on the ambitions flourishing across the country.

Q Life Magazine is our bi-annual print publication that is distributed globally. To read more from Q Life, including the online version of this edition, visit our website at [www.qlife.com](http://www qlife.com) or on Instagram at [@qlife_com](https://www.instagram.com/qlife_com).



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