



## Concept Note

# Qatar's Third Human Development Report ***Expanding Capacities of Qatari Youth***

**Social Development Department**

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## QATAR'S THIRD HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Working Title: ***Expanding Capacities of Qatari Youth***

### **Background and Introduction**

As part of GSDP's efforts to support the achievement of the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV), and cognizant of the growing national and international imperative to address environmental challenges, Qatar launched its second national human development report (HDR), *Advancing Sustainable Development*, in July 2009. The report focused on sustainable development themes and the analysis and recommendations that it contains will be used in the preparation of Qatar's first National Development Strategy, 2010-2015 (NDS). Qatar's first HDR, *The State of Qatar 2006*, reviewed various general dimensions of human development.

Similar to the second HDR, Qatar's third HDR will be supportive of and create synergies with the NDS/QNV. The third HDR will focus on the challenges and opportunities confronting Qatar's youth today, with the theme, *Expanding Capacities of Qatari Youth*. It will use the life-cycle approach as a framework to understand the risks and vulnerabilities facing young men and women, and the support systems available to them to address those risks at key stages of their lives from childhood through education and into work.

Key areas that will be addressed include child development, education and training, health, employment, family, sports and culture, youth participation and active citizenship. The Report will make key policy recommendations for expanding capacities of Qatari youth, in line with the aims of the NDS and the goals of the QNV.

Young men and women of today are tomorrow's workers, parents, citizens and leaders. The period of youth is one of transition from childhood dependency to independent adulthood. During this vulnerable period, providing adequate guidance and opportunities through investments in young people's education, health, employment, and sports and leisure activities are critical for a healthy transition to adulthood.

Qatari youth is a fast growing cohort. So investing in Qatar's youth will, *inter alia*, not only provide young men and women with opportunities and choices throughout their lifetime, but will help build the human capital required for advancing the nation towards a diversified knowledge-based society in line with the QNV.

This Report will adopt a flexible definition of youth but will be guided by the United Nations definition which is persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. The Report will also take into consideration relevant findings and recommendations from the Arab Human Development Reports, especially the 2002 Report on 'Creating Opportunities for Future Generations', and other national Reports in the region on this theme.

### ***Preliminary outline***

#### **Chapter 1 Qatari Youth in an Era of Rapid Change**

Qatar has experienced a remarkable social and economic transformation within a period of less than a generation. As reported in October 2009, by 2007, Qatar had advanced to 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 179 countries in the Human Development Index, compared to a ranking of 57<sup>th</sup> a decade earlier.

To ensure continued human development progress, Qatar launched the QNV in 2008. The QNV defines Qatar's long-term development outcomes and provides a framework within which national development strategies and implementation plans are prepared. It defines broad future trends and reflects a set of common goals for Qatari people.

The youth of Qatar, as future leaders, has a key role to play in realising the QNV. The outcomes of youth interventions are cumulative with long-term implications on the quality of successive generations. Decisions at each stage of their lifecycle will have implications for the next stage. Qatari youth must therefore be engaged in all aspects of policy and programme. They need to have opportunities and ability to develop themselves and to contribute to society.

This chapter will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What is the demographic profile of Qatari youth and how has this changed over time?
- How has social and economic change in Qatar impacted youth development?
- What are the key issues, challenges and opportunities confronting Qatari youth today?
- How prepared are Qatari youth for today's challenges, especially in realising the goals of the QNV?
- What should policy makers focus on to better prepare Qatari youth for the future?

## **Chapter 2 Youth Development through Education**

A focus on education is important in youth development as youth is a critical stage for building human capital. Young people need to acquire the right knowledge and skills to become productive workers, good parents and responsible citizens. Investments in learning at an early age have larger returns than later investments because they increase the productivity of those later investments. However, it is also important that learning opportunities be provided for all, including young people who have failed the first time around.

Basic schooling of Qataris is now universal in marked contrast to the situation a generation ago. Literacy levels at ages 15-24 years are now close to 100 per cent. However, there is general acknowledgement that the quality of education is not yet up to international standards, with Qatari boys markedly lagging in mathematics and science subjects. Further, whilst school enrolments have increased substantially at secondary level, there has been little change at the tertiary level, with relatively low male participation.

This chapter will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What are the educational opportunities and incentives that are available to Qatari youth?
- What are parents' and young persons' views and perceptions about the value of education and learning?
- What are the trends and patterns in educational performance of Qatari youth?
- What are the returns to education and how relevant are they to the needs of young Qataris as future workers, parents and citizens in a post-carbon knowledge-based economy?
- What are the best policy and management responses for Qatar to improve the quality of education inputs and outputs to achieve the goals and objectives of the QNV?

### **Chapter 3 Youth in the Labour Market**

Education systems need to adequately prepare young people for work. Young people need to acquire skills that would enable them to compete effectively in the labour market. They need to be able to apply these skills and take advantage of opportunities that present themselves in an increasingly global economy. At the same time, adequate policies and institutions should be in place to manage this transition to a working life. There is a need to ensure that there are enough employment opportunities for young people; that their skills match employment opportunities and that adequate options are available for those who fall behind.

The human development pillar of the QNV promotes increased and diversified participation of Qataris in the workforce. However, education outputs in Qatar are presently insufficient to support Qatarisation. The small absolute size of the Qatari labour force with 3,000 – 3,500 new entrants annually is insufficient to meet the needs of a rapidly growing economy. Qataris are also underrepresented in professional and managerial positions.

This chapter will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What is the employment profile of the Qatari labour market?
- What are the key issues and challenges related to Qatari youth employment in the labour market? What are the factors limiting opportunities for economic participation among Qatari youth?
- What are the progress and remaining challenges related to the participation of young Qatari women in the labour market?
- What policies and programmes are in place to support school-work transition and career growth of Qatari youth? What is the effectiveness of such policies and programmes?
- What are the best policy and management responses for Qatar to improve youth participation in the labour market, including options to reintegrate the most vulnerable?

### **Chapter 4 Health and Wellbeing of Young Qataris**

Improving health outcomes of young people are important to secure future productive human capital and manage public health costs. Youth is a time when people begin experimenting with activities that have long-term health risks such as smoking, drug use, alcohol consumption, and sexual behaviour. It is also a period when they have more control over their diet and physical activity. Early interventions are necessary to help young people manage these health risks and adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Qatar has over the past three decades invested heavily in developing its health services which has helped improve service delivery and the health status of its population. However, with rapid economic and population growth, Qatar is facing a number of rising health risks related to changing lifestyle patterns and stresses on existing health systems.

This chapter will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What is the health status of young people in Qatar?
- What are some of the key biological, behavioural, social and cultural risks affecting the health and wellbeing of young people?
- What are the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people in Qatar?
- What policies and programmes are in place to promote better health and wellbeing of Qatari youth? What is the effectiveness of such policies and programmes?
- What are the best policy and management responses for Qatar to improve the health and wellbeing of Qatari youth, including prevention, treatment and care?

## **Chapter 5 Youth Empowerment and Civic Participation**

Youth is a period when people begin searching for a stable identity. The greater freedoms and wider choices that accompany economic and social progress have changed the values and culture of youth, and a key challenge for young people is reconciling traditional and modern values and norms. While families and peer groups are important in shaping youth identity, social organisations provide spaces for young people to develop a sense of belonging. An enabling environment should be created to provide youth with opportunities to be heard and seen as active citizens in the communities and societies in which they live.

Despite rapid economic and social gains, as well as political change, Qatar has largely maintained its cultural and traditional values with family playing a central role in Qatari life. Families and institutions will continue to play a key role in youth development but youth participation in this process has not been fully realised. Qatari youth must be engaged in all aspects of policy and programme development and should be given an opportunity to express their needs and wishes to decision-makers.

This chapter will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What is the level of youth involvement in their personal, educational, social and economic development? What is the state of youth participation in Qatar's political processes?
- Do existing policies and programmes adequately address the needs and wishes of Qatari youth?
- What are the key issues and challenges confronting youth participation in development processes?
- What policies and programmes are in place to encourage youth participation in development processes? What is the effectiveness of such policies and programmes?
- What are the best policy and management responses for Qatar to improve youth participation in development processes?

## **Chapter 6 Conclusion and Recommendations**

This chapter summarises the key issues and conclusions and offers a number of recommendations for policy and programme development related to expanding the capacities of Qatari youth. It will be guided by the QNV and will adopt the 2007 World Development Report, 'Development and the Next Generation' policy framework which added a youth lens on policies and programmes to focus them in three broad directions:

- Broadening the *opportunities* for young people to develop skills and use them productively;
- Helping them acquire the *capabilities* to make good decisions in pursuing those opportunities; and
- Offering *second chances and opportunities* to those who are fall behind or who are left behind for various reasons.

### **Methodology**

As per the second HDR, GSDP will lead and coordinate the preparation of the third HDR and ensure that the process is fully participatory, including active engagement with Qatar's youth, and involving a wide range of stakeholders.

GSDP will form:

- A HDR National Steering Committee ( HDR NSC), comprising key stakeholders from relevant ministries and agencies, civil society, the private sector and the UNDP Abu

GSDP will commission and organise:

- Background papers on the themes of the Report from a select group of national and international experts; and
- A series of national workshops/seminars will be held to consider issues, review findings and develop recommendations, including a youth summit to provide young people with a voice and ensure that the recommendations from the Report are reflective of their needs and interests.

The report will:

- With the support of QSA, aim to develop a composite index to benchmark capacities of Qatari youth, as well a wide selection of human development indicators on youth.
- Consider international best practices for investing in youth, with a particular emphasis on those adopted elsewhere in the GCC region.
- Be supported by a communications strategy that links its outcomes to the QNV/NDS.

The report will be published in both Arabic and English

### **Timeline**

The target completion date for the third HDR is end 2010.

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