

30th anniversary of the International Year of The Family Conference

Executive Director, Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al-Emadi's Message

Dear Readers,

With the much-anticipated international conference just weeks away, we find ourselves on the cusp of an extraordinary moment. From 29 October to 31 October, the world will gather in Qatar to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. This will be more than a commemoration—it will be a turning point for how we approach the future of families in an ever-changing world. The Youth Summit on 29 October will kick off this exceptional gathering, a platform where young leaders from across the world will take center stage, sharing their ideas on how to navigate the megatrends of technological change, demographic shifts, urbanization, and climate change, and the impact on families.



These discussions will fuel the broader conference conversations and set a dynamic tone for the days ahead. As we prepare for the official opening of the conference on 30 October, we are ready to embark on a journey of discovery, solutions, and global collaboration. Do you want to discover Why Family Policies Matter in tackling today's most critical global challenges? The opening session will provide an answer. Featuring a panel of high-profile experts and influential leaders, this session will explore how well-crafted family policies can serve as a foundation for tackling critical issues such as demographic shifts, technological advancements, and ensuring social stability. The session will set the tone for the conference by drawing on the expertise of distinguished speakers, ensuring a robust, evidence-based approach to shaping the future of families worldwide.

The upcoming sessions will be a melting pot of expertise, where leading minds from around the world will converge to address some of the most complex challenges facing families today. From the digital revolution's impact on family dynamics and balancing screen time with family time, to the "Shattered Lives" of refugees affected by war, and the wide-reaching effects of demographic shifts, Family-Friendly Cities, and Climate Change, these discussions will not only highlight the issues but also focus on practical, forward-thinking solutions.

What makes this conference unique is not just the breadth of topics but the immersive experience we have planned for every delegate. With over 2,000 participants expected, the interactive sessions, cutting-edge exhibitions, and collaborative spaces are designed to inspire deep engagement. Whether you're seeking actionable insights, partnerships, or simply new ideas to bring back to your own community, this conference will be the perfect environment to connect, learn, and lead.

But beyond the discussions, what truly matters is the sense of unity and purpose that this event embodies. The International Year of the Family was established with the belief that families are the foundation of strong societies, and today, as we face unprecedented global challenges, that belief is more important than ever. Together, we can redefine how families thrive in the 21st century, crafting policies and practices that are inclusive, resilient, and forward-thinking.

I warmly invite each of you to join us in Qatar, to be part of this monumental event. This is your chance to contribute to the future of family well-being globally—to shape the conversations that will drive change, and to be part of a movement that places families at the heart of sustainable development.

With sincere anticipation, we look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a transformative event for families across the globe.

For more information, please visit this [link](#)

Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al-Emadi
Executive Director
Doha International Family Institute

International Studies

Urbanization and Families

This article highlights the challenges faced by families due to rapid and unsustainable urbanization, with an estimated 300 million of the world's slum dwellers being children. Often, education, food, and healthcare services are unaffordable and inaccessible, particularly for those living in poverty or with elderly or disabled family members. Most of these families work in the informal economy without social safety nets. The article also presents solutions through the initiatives of the United Nations and the Division for Inclusive Social Development.

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Regional Studies

Arab Society: Demographic and Social Trends

This publication is the latest in a series published biennially by the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Focusing on population dynamics, household composition, family formation, housing conditions, health, education, labor, poverty, inequality, culture, and social participation, the report presents a broad illustration of Arab society and how it has been changing.

Data have been drawn primarily from the national statistical offices of ESCWA member States supplemented by publicly accessible data from international agencies such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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Local news

Imbalanced Demographics in Qatar: Implications and Solutions

A book issued by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, addresses the demographic structure of the State of Qatar, explaining the causes of its imbalance and its repercussions, approaching possible solutions to balance the imbalance of the demographic structure, the features of policies to reduce it, and anticipating the features of the basic national strategy to address it. The book also examines the impact of the population increase that accompanied the comprehensive economic and development boom witnessed by Qatar on its demographic structure, its repercussions, and ways to reduce it, through an approach based on collecting and analyzing statistical data related to the Qatari population reality, and a field study that explores the assessments of experts, consultants, academics, and others interested in population issues, regarding the various effects of the imbalance of the demographic structure, and regarding possible solutions to reduce it and its various repercussions.

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DIFI News:

MSDF and QF's DIFI Sign Key Agreements Ahead of Doha Hosting Significant Family Conference

Within the framework of the strategic partnership between the two parties, Her Excellency Mrs. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al-Misnad, Minister of Social Development and Family, and Her Excellency Sheikh Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, witnessed the signing of several agreements between the Ministry and the Doha International Family Institute, a member of Qatar Foundation, as part of the upcoming organization of the 30th anniversary conference of the International Year of the Family at the end of next October, which highlights contemporary global trends and sheds light on policies affecting the family around the world.

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Qatar to host world conference celebrating 30th anniversary of International Year of the Family



Dr. Sharifa Noman Al Emadi, Executive Director of DIFI, highlighted the significance of the event: "In a rapidly changing world shaped by technological advances, demographic shifts, migration, and environmental challenges, it is more important than ever to prioritize the needs of families and support them to cope and flourish. The International Year of the Family conference is a platform for thought leaders and policymakers to exchange ideas and develop innovative solutions to empower families to cope with these changes."

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DIFI Participated in a side event on "The Role of the Family in Children's Education" in Geneva



The GoFoF organized a side event to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, on "The Role of the Family in Children Education". Dr. Ahmed Aref, DIFI, explored the evidence on the integrated positive parenting styles and policies to enhance child wellbeing and protection from digital harm.

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Video

How does Islam view the institution of marriage from a broader perspective, impacting both this world and the Hereafter? Watch the full episode of the 'Beit Amer' podcast featuring Sheikh Hamoud Al-Anzi



Spotlight

DIFI invites you to shape the discussion on building new frameworks for "Family and Contemporary Megatrends," in Doha, Qatar from October 30-31, 2024.

Register your interest [here](#)