



Qatar National Vision 2030

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1. Qatar National Vision Overview

Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030) is a development plan launched in October 2008. It provides the foundation for the formulation of a National Strategy, which will assist in realizing the vision by setting and prioritizing concrete development goals with time-bound targets. The aim of QNV 2030 is to transform Qatar into an advanced society capable of achieving sustainable development by 2030 (Qatar-gulfnews.com, 2016). The development goals are divided into four central pillars: economic, social, human and environmental development.

1.1. Five major challenges as per the National Vision

Qatar's sound management of its hydrocarbon resources will continue to secure improvements in standards of living. However, an improved standard of living cannot be the only goal of a society. To remain true to its values, Qatar must balance five major challenges (Qatar-gulfnews.com, 2016) and these challenges are as follows:



1.1.1. Modernization & preservation of traditions

Preservation of cultural traditions becomes challenging in a rapidly globalizing world. Qatar's rapid economic and population growth have created intense strains between the old and new in almost every aspect of life. Modern work patterns and pressures of competitiveness sometimes clash with traditional relationships based on trust and personal ties. Qatar's National Vision responds to this challenge and seeks to balance the old and the new (Qatar-gulfnews.com, 2016).

1.1.2. Needs of current & future generations

Qatar intends to meet the needs of this generation without compromising the needs of future generations. Sustainable development is a process that seeks to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs—this is also known as "intergenerational justice". The rights of future generations could be jeopardized if the depletion of non-renewable resources are not compensated by the creation of new sources of renewable wealth. This could happen in at least three ways: 1; inefficient use of financial returns from hydrocarbon wealth, 2; spending on trophy projects could prove costly, and 3; overly aggressive economic development could lead to economic overstress & risk, tipping the environmental scales irreversibly. QNV will choose the development path that carefully balances the interests of the current generation and future generations (Qatar-gulfnews.com, 2016).

1.1.3. Managed growth & uncontrolled expansion

Qatar is passing through an economic growth phase. However, this growth could deplete its resources and derail it from its targeted objectives. Stresses from economic overheating and imbalances can manifest themselves in rapidly rising prices. Which, if persisting, will lead to financial vulnerabilities; deterioration in the quality of public services; low & stagnant labour productivity; deterioration in project quality and completion; environmental damage; and social inequality and tensions. Therefore, Qatar must target growth rates that are compatible with its capacity for real economy expansion (Qatar-gulfnews.com, 2016).

1.1.4. Size & quality of expat labour force

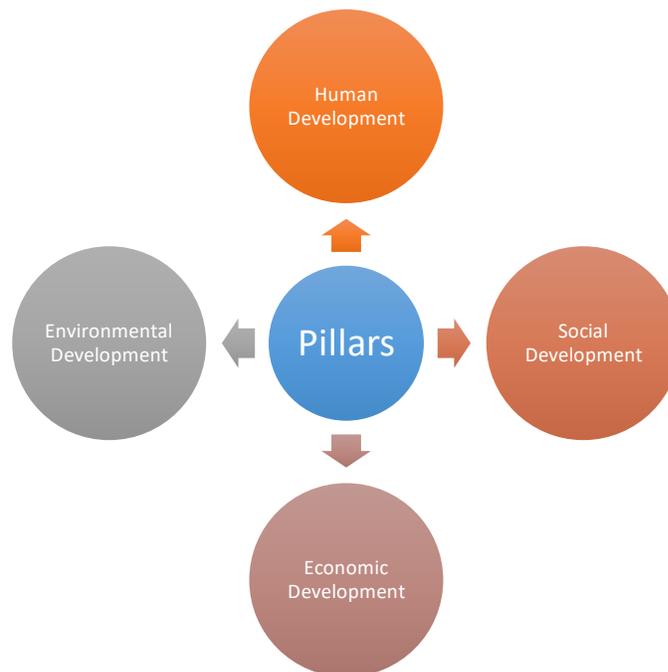
Qatar must choose a development path that is compatible with the targeted size and quality of expatriate labour. Qatar is currently experiencing high rates of population growth primarily due to massive urban development, large-scale investment projects and rising government expenditure. These factors have led to a large increase in the ratio of expatriates to locals in the labor force and a sharp rise in the immigration of unskilled workers. Qatar must weigh the consequences of recruiting expatriate workers in terms of a potentially negative impact on national identity against the anticipated economic benefits that accrue from an increase in the numbers of foreign workers in the total labor force (Qatar-gulfnews.com, 2016).

1.1.5. Economic growth, social development & environmental management

Economic development can have negative effects on the natural environment. Environmental degradation can be reduced through investment in advanced technologies designed to minimize the damage caused by economic projects. Qatar has already committed to enforcing international standards for environmental protection when designing & implementing its industrial projects. (Qatar-gulfnews.com, 2016).

1.2. Four interconnected pillars of the National Vision

Qatar recognizes that sustainable development can only be realized when there is social progress, economic growth and environmental change (Un.org, 2017). The QNV development goals are divided into four central pillars: economic, social, human and environmental development.



1.2.1. Economic Development

Economic development is an essential part of the QNV 2030 and depends on Qatar's ability to create a balance between an oil & gas-based and a knowledge-based economy. The QNV 2030 will also assist in increasing competition, attracting investments and stimulating growth (The Washington Times, 2019). Moreover, Qatar aims to ensure sound economic management to create an attractive

business climate, responsibly utilize its hydrocarbon resources to provide intergenerational justice, and spearhead a transition towards a knowledge-based economy (Q Life, 2017).

1.2.2. Social Development

Social development under the QNV 2030 encompasses a system dedicated to social welfare and protection for all citizens and to bolster the role of women in society. Social advancement also means equal educational, employment & career opportunities for all citizens, regardless of their background or gender and a tolerant and fair society that embraces Islam's values of peace, welfare, justice and community. Under the QNV 2030, Qatar will serve as a regional and global example with an increased role in the Middle East and the world (The Washington Times, 2019).

1.2.3. Human Development

Qatar recognizes that its future success depends on its human capital. Human development according to the QNV 2030 entails advanced health care infrastructure that caters and an educational system at par with the highest international standards, enabling Qatar's students to be globally competitive and to increase their role in Qatar's economy (The Washington Times, 2019).

1.2.4. Environmental Development

Sustaining economic and social growth is impossible without an environmental vision that places ecological preservation at the forefront. The QNV 2030 aims to achieve a balance between developmental needs and environmental protection. QNV 2030 emphasizes establishing an effective legal framework and the environmental institutions that will preserve and protect the environment. The QNV 2030 also emphasizes the importance of increasing citizens' awareness of their role in protecting the country's environment for their children and the nation's future generations (The Washington Times, 2019).

2. Qatar National Vision Review

2.1. Initiatives supporting economic development

The global shifts towards renewable energy sources and the natural limitations of petrochemical resources represent a profound risk to Qatar's economy. Qatar's priorities regarding economic development are as follows:

- Maintaining a sustainable economic growth rate.
- Leveraging oil and gas revenues to develop human resources.
- Stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship in service of economic diversification.

Qatar has taken numerous initiatives in support of its economic development, including the establishment of Qatar Financial Center, Qatar Science & Technology Park and the Iktefa initiative. **Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)** is a platform supporting businesses looking to expand in Qatar. QFC supports business licensing and setup. It also helps businesses navigate Qatar's legal and economic system. **Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP)** is an incubator for applied research and technological innovation in support of entrepreneurs. QSTP has access to the universities and research centres in Qatar's Education City, building a bridge between Qatar's educational and economic development. In 2017, Qatar's leading agriculture investor Hassad Food launched the **Iktefa Initiative** to support the development of local farms. Iktefa targets unproductive farms by purchasing their annual supply of produce and then selling them to local markets. The Initiative helps protect local farmers from the competition with food importers and also enables Qatar to secure domestic food supply (Qatar-America Institute, 2018).

Responsible exploitation of oil & gas and fully developed alternative sources of energy are also another aspect of economic development. In this regard, access to affordable and clean energy is important, and the government is striving to ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services to its population. Government has adopted alternative sources of energy including the establishment of Umm Al-Houl projects, Siraj Energy Company and a number of solar-related industrial companies, e.g. Qatar Solar Technologies. Some of the measures undertaken by the Government for enhancing the efficiency of energy production, distribution and consumption, are as follows (Sustainabledevelopment.un.org, 2018):

1. **Qatar District Cooling Company** has achieved compliance with the transition plan for the use of treated wastewater in the operation of cooling stations instead of using potable water (in the Pearl and West Bay stations).
2. The implementation of the program of rationalizing energy and water consumption (**Tarsheed**) continues, leading to a reduced rate of electricity per capita consumption by 18% and water per capita consumption by about 20% since its launch in 2012 until the end of 2016.

3. The necessary studies are conducted by **Qatar Electricity and Water Company (KAHRAMAA)** for the rehabilitation and development of Ras Abu Fantas area by replacing the old plants with new ones with better efficiency, state-of-the-art technologies & low emissions. (Sustainabledevelopment.un.org, 2018).

2.2. Initiatives & institutions supporting social development

Social development agenda of QNV 2030 seeks to address tension in Qatar between a strong culture of family values and the growth of women's participation in the economy and public life. Qatar seeks to empower women to lead without sacrificing the cohesion of its families. The social development goals of QNV 2030 include:

- Preservation of Qatar's national and Islamic heritage through public institutions.
- Leveraging Qatar's institutions to support women's empowerment.
- Fostering dialogue across cultures and religions to support coexistence and appreciation.

The social initiatives undertaken by the government in pursuit of social development includes Qatar Museum of Islamic Art, Hukoomi E-Government platform, Doha Center for Interfaith Dialogue and increased international cooperation by forging global partnerships. **Qatar's Museum of Islamic Art** is a pioneer in the preservation and promotion of Islamic art and heritage. In a region where development and construction are often prioritized over the protection of cultural heritage, the Museum of Islamic Art is an oasis to celebrate the history and legacy of Islam. The **Hukoomi E-Government** platform in Qatar supports family development and protects women and children through anonymous hotlines and counselling options for families experiencing domestic issues. Moreover, **Doha Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DCID)** is a government center focused on fostering dialogue and supporting coexistence between religions. The DCID seeks to identify common ground to alleviate misunderstandings and activate religious values to support humanitarian development (Qatar-America Institute, 2018). Government has strengthened its global presence by hosting several international conferences and contributed towards international peace & security through political initiatives and humanitarian assistance. Qatar provided development assistance to developing countries in excess of US \$2 billion in 2017. Furthermore, Qatar has signed trade agreements with many countries around the world as part of global partnerships (Sustainabledevelopment.un.org, 2018).

2.3. Initiatives & institutions supporting human development

Qatar's plans for human development are two-pronged, covering both education and healthcare. It seeks to empower its citizens to make healthy choices and pursue fulfilling careers that harness their talents. QNV 2030 goals for human development are as follows:

- Tailoring educational curricula to labour market needs and making educational programs accessible for all ages.
- Offering high-quality preventive and curative health care to improve the population's general health and keep costs low.
- Recruitment and protection of expatriate labourers to fulfil specific economic needs.

Initiatives and institutions supporting human development in Qatar include Education City, Qatar Metabolic Institute and Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. **Education City** is an indispensable asset for human development in Qatar and it offers world class educations in the arts, engineering, computer science, public policy and communications with branches of six leading American universities. The **Qatar Metabolic Institute** is a subsidiary of the Hamad Medical Corporation that partners with academic and clinical institutions in Qatar to improve public health with respect to non-communicable metabolic diseases like diabetes and obesity. The **Doha Institute for Graduate Studies** is a leading centre for graduate studies in Qatar, with centres on social sciences, humanities, public administration, psychology, security studies, conflict studies, and executive education. The Institute offers a variety of areas for masters- and doctoral-level graduate studies (Qatar-America Institute, 2018).

Human development initiatives of the government have paid off. Qatar HDI (Human Development Index) value for 2017 was 0.856, positioning it at 37 out of 189 countries. Table A reviews Qatar's progress in each of the HDI indicators. Between 1990 and 2017, Qatar's life expectancy at birth increased by 3.3 years, mean years of schooling increased by 4.4 years and expected years of schooling increased by 1.6 years. Qatar GNI (Gross National Income) per capita increased by approximately 57% between 1990 and 2017 (Hdr.undp.org, 2018):

Table A:

Time Period	Life expectancy at birth (Years)	Expected years of schooling (Years)	Mean Years of schooling (Years)	GNI per capita (\$)	HDI Value
1990	75.0	11.8	5.4	74,424	0.754
1995	75.7	13.1	5.9	77,411	0.784
2000	76.3	12.6	7.9	108,644	0.810
2005	76.8	13.1	8.8	99,277	0.831
2010	77.3	12.8	8.4	114,064	0.825
2015	78.0	13.4	9.8	117,896	0.854
2016	78.2	13.4	9.8	118,088	0.855
2017	78.3	13.4	9.8	116,818	0.856

Qatar's 2017 HDI of 0.856 is above the average of 0.699 for countries in Arab States. Comparative analysis of Qatar relative to Arab countries is shown in the table below (Table B).

Table B:

Time Period	Life expectancy at birth (Years)	Expected years of schooling (Years)	Mean Years of schooling (Years)	GNI per capita (US\$)	HDI Rank
Qatar	78.3	13.4	9.8	116,818	37
Bahrain	77.0	16.0	9.4	41,580	43
UAE	77.4	13.6	10.8	67,805	34
Arab States	71.5	11.9	7.0	15,837	-

2.4. Initiatives & institutions supporting environmental development

Qatar is a country, heavily reliant on hydrocarbons exports but it is still keen to balance its developmental needs with the need of addressing climate change and limit environmental externalities from its economic growth. Components of Qatar's environmental development plans include the following (Qatar-America Institute, 2018):

- Educating citizens on how and why Qatar's natural heritage must be preserved.
- Cooperating regionally to reduce environmental pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Incorporating sustainability in all stages of urban development plans.

Environmental development initiatives include Msheireb Downtown, Lusail City and Qatar World Cup 2022. **Msheireb Downtown** in Doha is the world's first sustainable urban development project. Msheireb is reviving the old Doha commercial district with sustainable architectural practices, aiming to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold or platinum certification for all its buildings. Msheireb will make use of outdoor shade, natural breeze off the sea, sustainable

waste management and solar panels to minimize energy needs and environmental impact (Qatar-America Institute, 2018). **Lusail City** is the largest sustainable development project in Qatar. It's an entirely new 38-square-km city being built just north of Doha that will be able to accommodate 200,000 residents. Some of the city features include a water-sensitive landscape to collect rainwater and minimize water consumption, stone revetment walls along the coast to protect local marine life and a state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant to recycle treated grey water for irrigation (Qatar-America Institute, 2018). Moreover, two stadiums for 2022 **Qatar World Cup** have received Class A ratings by the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) for their environmentally friendly design and reduced environmental impact and prioritization of reuse and recycling during construction. Qatar is using a technology called district cooling, which is 40% more sustainable than conventional cooling techniques. As a result of this technology, Khalifa International Stadium (renovated for the World Cup & reopened in 2017) is the coolest open-air sports venue in the world (Qatar-America Institute, 2018).

Qatar has endeavoured to preserve its biodiversity as part of its heritage, culture and future in order to protect its national and cultural identity, food security and local development. Over the past ten years, the terrestrial protected areas increased from 11% to 23.6% totalling 2,744 km², in addition to 6.2% for marine protected areas totalling 720 km², bringing the total protected area to 3,464 km², and representing 29.8% of Qatar's total area. These protected areas, mostly terrestrial, aim to protect sensitive desert ecosystems from overhunting and overgrazing, as well as to combat desertification and halt land degradation. The Government is also working to raise awareness on the current and future status of biodiversity and to establish and operate a biodiversity database by the end of 2022 (Sustainabledevelopment.un.org, 2018).

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