

## DIFI PARTICIPATES IN ‘DISABILITY, TRAINING AND SOCIAL INTERVENTION’ CONFERENCE

*QF member encourages autism-related discussions in Morocco*

**Doha, Qatar, July 8, 2019:** The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation QF, participated in an international conference titled ‘Disability, Training and Social Intervention,’ held from July 1-3 in Tangier, Morocco.

Organized by the **Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development in Morocco and the National Institute for Social Action in Tangier;** DIFI’s participation at the conference included presenting a paper titled ‘Exploring Dynamics of Social Support System for Families living with Autism in Qatar’ by author Ahmed Aref from DIFI’s Family Research Department.

The paper analyzed patterns of support employed in Qatar and how they work, identifying the various support dimensions between national strategies, policies, services, and interventions. It also examined multiple social and community support patterns that respond to the needs of families living with autism spectrum disorder.

The research was based on the scientific evidence presented by a DIFI research project – ‘The Well-being of Families Living with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Qatar’ – which explored the dimensions of family well-being in Qatar.

Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al Emadi, Executive Director, DIFI, said: "DIFI is keen to share its contributions to the development of evidence-based policies and to present the results of our research through local and international platforms that bring together policy makers, researchers, experts, and other stakeholders.

“Our participation at this conference included an analysis of the existing status of tools, approaches, and mechanisms of social intervention for people with special needs. Our findings were discussed with regional and international experts with the idea of developing specific recommendations to improve the effectiveness of support systems at all levels.”

DIFI is a global policy and advocacy institute working to advance knowledge on Arab families through research and promote evidence-based policies at a national, regional, and international

level. The institute has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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### **About Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)**

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), was established in 2006. The Institute works to strengthen the family through the development and dissemination of high-quality research on Arab families, encouraging knowledge exchange on issues relevant to the family and making the family a priority to policy-makers through advocacy and outreach at the national, regional and international levels. Among the Institute's most important initiatives is the Annual Conference on the Family; and the OSRA Research Grant in collaboration with the Qatar National Research Fund, an annual research grant which encourages research related to the Arab family and family policy. The Institute has special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council.

### **Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, please visit: [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)



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