

## FAMILY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED AT DIFI SYMPOSIUM

*Event focused on wellbeing of children in Qatar*

**Doha, Qatar, October 2, 2019:** The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), today hosted a symposium titled ‘Child Wellbeing in Qatar’ at Qatar National Convention Centre, which saw participants create a list of comprehensive family policy recommendations for the region.

The event – held in partnership with Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs in Qatar and UNICEF in the Gulf Area Office – was attended by researchers, practitioners, policy makers and service providers from across Qatar.

Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al Emadi, Executive Director of DIFI, delivered the opening remarks. “To understand the wellbeing of children, we must approach child development from an integrated perspective that encompasses many aspects that affect children, such as family, colleagues, community, programs, and policies.

“The child's wellbeing must be measured in a variety of dimensions, including physical, behavioral, psychological, and cognitive wellbeing, as well as protection and economic security,” Dr. Al Emadi said.

“This country has placed a strong emphasis on the importance of investing in the wellbeing of children, and children to advance national priorities and international development. Qatar National Vision 2030 requires us to use our resources wisely to ensure the wellbeing of future generations.”

Ghanim Mubarak al-Kuwari, Head of Social Security Department at the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs, said: “The State of Qatar is an active and responsible member of the international community. The participation in this symposium affirms its commitment, effectiveness, responsibility, and keenness to develop and update its laws and legislations related to the issues of the rights of children and the family in general, and to upgrade them to conform to the relevant international standards.”

“In line with the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs' mandate, and its responsibility as the leader of the social protection sector, the ministry strives to exert all its efforts – whether through legislation or practice – to preserve the rights and development

of the child, develop programs, and provide necessary awareness of the concept of social protection and dissemination throughout Qatar.”

The symposium began with a discussion on DIFI’s ‘Child Wellbeing in the Gulf’ report. The study systematically reviewed programs and policies, and focused on seven main factors: physical health, behavioral adjustment, psychological well-being, social relationships, safety, cognitive wellbeing, and economic security. The report also focuses on the international agenda and national strategies, as well as country-specific programs and policies.

The first session was led by Dr. Asmaa Al Fadala, Director of Research, World Innovation Summit for Education – an initiative of QF – and focused on child wellbeing in education. Speakers included Ms. Mariam Alboenian, Director of Early Years Education, Ministry of Education and Higher Education; Dr. Tamader Al Thani, Assistance Professor in Educational Psychology, Qatar University; Ms. Ghada Haddad, Head of IB Training, Education Development Institute, QF, and Mr. Anthony MacDonald, UNICEF Head of Office & Senior Programme Officer in Qatar.

The second session on child health and wellbeing brought together experts including Dr. Sadriya Al Kohji, NHS Lead for Healthy Children and Adolescents, Ministry of Public Health, Assistant Director of Medicine for Child and Adolescent Health, PHCC.

Head of child and adolescent at PHCC National Lead for Healthy Children And Adolescent, Minister of Public Health, Qatar; Dr. Muhammad Azeem, Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Sidra Medicine – a member of QF; and Dr. Rashed Ghareeb Al Buloushi, Director of Family and Counselling Department, Center and Mr. Hussain Al Harami, Head of Monitoring and Studies Department, Behavioral Healthcare Center. The session was chaired by Dr. Walid Qoronfleh, Director of Research and Policy, World Innovation Summit for Health – an initiative of QF.

The last session was led by Dr. Khalid Al Ansari, Chair of Emergency Medicine and Founder of Sidra Medicine’s Child Advocacy Program, and addressed child wellbeing and protection. Speakers included Mr. Mansour Al Saadi, Executive Director, Aman, Qatar Foundation for Social Work; Captain Shaheen Rashid Al Ateeq, Head of Awareness and Media Section, Juvenile Police Department; and Ms. Naseem Awl, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Gulf Area Office.

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.

## ENDS

### **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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