

DIFI HOLDS AN EXPERT GROUP MEETING WITH ESCWA TO DISCUSS FAMILY-SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION PROJECT

Joint partnership with Qatar Foundation member aims to strengthen family wellbeing

Doha, Qatar, June 28, 2018: The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), has held a consultation meeting on Family-Sensitive Social Protection (FSSP) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

The meeting, which took place in Doha from June 26-27, resulted from a joint project between DIFI and ESCWA to develop and promote a focus on families in social protection. Evidence has shown that social protection programs can strengthen the capacity of families to care for their children and remove barriers to accessing services, while reaching those that are most vulnerable.

However, social protection services remain an unfulfilled right for many vulnerable families, including those in the Arab region. The objective of the joint DIFI/ESCWA project is to develop a conceptual framework for family-sensitive social protection, examine its rationale, collect evidence to support the proposal, and identify challenges associated with its design and implementation.

The meeting discussed the findings of the preliminary report on the project, with the regional and international experts on social protection who attended reflecting on family trends in their regions and countries, and focusing on specific issues around family-sensitive social protection.

DIFI, which has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, is a global policy and advocacy institute working to advance knowledge on Arab families through research, and to promote evidence-based policies at national, regional, and international level.

Commenting on the collaboration with ESCWA, Ms. Noor Al Malki Al Jehani, Executive Director, DIFI, said: "Social protection is an important thematic area of DIFI's work on family wellbeing, and increasing evidence shows that social protection measures lead to positive outcomes for families, especially on children's education and general wellbeing.

"Our collaboration with ESCWA helps to strengthen social protection for families and boosts the

focus on major social policy initiatives to sustain families living in poverty and social exclusion, including single parents or large families, and families providing care to people with disabilities.”

Ahead of the meeting, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCWA Khawla Mattar commented from Beirut on the importance of the collaboration to strengthen family sensitive social protection and said: “Families in Arab countries deserve all the support that the UN regional commission can supply in order to fulfill their important role in providing or facilitating social protection.”

“Especially women, who often bear the main responsibility for the wellbeing of families, need to be given more attention by policymakers. And special attention needs to be directed to countries in conflict and crisis, where families are under unusual pressure and often torn apart,” she added.

Ms. Mattar also underlined that ESCWA appreciates the initiative of DIFI to focus attention on the important contribution of families and is determined to continue the cooperation to identify the best avenues for supporting them.

-ENDS-

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 are the Annual Conference on the Family; and the OSRA Research Grant in collaboration with 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 the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

For more information on the Doha International Family Institute, please visit www.difi.org.qa

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, science and research, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, 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, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>