



# EVENT REPORT

## The Release Ceremony of the 2021 Annual Impact Report for Qatar Charity

Doha, Qatar

12 September 2022



مركز دراسات النزاع والعمل الانساني  
Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies



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QATAR CHARITY

## 1. Abstract

The Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, in cooperation with the Qatar Charity Association, organized an event of releasing the 2021 Annual Impact Report for Qatar Charity, on Monday 12 September 2022. The annual report release ceremony, which was held at the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies in the Cultural Building of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, was followed by a panel discussion entitled “The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus”.

The event was held in the presence of Her Excellency Mrs. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al-Misnad, Minister of Social Development and Family, with the participation of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Al Muraikhi, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Public-Private Partnerships and Islamic Social Finance, and Mr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity.

The agenda of the symposium included an opening remarks by Dr. Ghassan Al-Kahlout, Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, followed by a speech by Mr. Mohammed Ali Al-Ghamdi, Chief Governance Officer and Director of External Affairs Office at Qatar Charity, and a speech by Mr. Biplove Choudhary, Technical Representative and Head of the United Nations Developmental Program Office.

This event comes within the framework of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies’ commitment to producing knowledge and studying policies related to humanitarian work, including working alongside humanitarian and charitable organizations in the State of Qatar and the Arab world to develop best practices related to “The Triple Nexus”, and to follow modern approaches in the global humanitarian system, in order to bridge the gap between theory and practice. This includes producing high-quality research and analyses focused on conflict response and resolution.

## 2. The Release of the 2021 Annual Impact Report for Qatar Charity

The agenda of the released event included a welcoming speech by Dr. Ghassan Al Kahlout, Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, followed by several speeches given by the honoured guests – Mr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity; Her Excellency Mrs. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al-Misnad, Minister of Social Development and Family; His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Al Muraikhi, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Public-Private Partnerships and Islamic Social Finance.

At the beginning of his speech, Mr. Al-Kuwari indicated the keenness of Qatar Charity to release the annual impact report every year, in adherence to its values of transparency and compliance, responsibility and accountability, belonging and respect, cooperation and integration, achievement and creativity. He pointed out that the year 2021 witnessed the beginning of the strategic framework implementation for the years 2021-2025. It was performed based on five following pillars: 1) promoting social development in Qatar, 2)

contributing to achieving comprehensive and sustainable development, 3) achieving a decent life for families and their children, 4) alleviating the suffering of those affected by crises, 5) promoting peace and social cohesion.

Afterwards, the speaker presented the most important achievements of Qatar Charity for the year of 2021, explaining that 10 million people, including women, children, people with disabilities and elderly ones, have benefited from the organization's activities. He stressed that these interventions carried out by Qatar Charity have contributed to making a positive change in the lives of many people, including the building of new homes for them to preserve their dignity, and digging water wells. He added that Qatar Charity's contribution amounted to \$363 million, which was spent on humanitarian and development projects, including projects aimed at enhancing the approach of "The Triple Nexus". During 2021, Qatar Charity's activities reached 49 countries, while the number of projects implemented by the organization through its various field offices as well as its executive partners reached 7,862 projects and sustainable solutions. These achievements were made in light of particularly difficult conditions and challenges witnessed by the entire world, as Qatar Charity insisted on delivering aid and making efforts despite all difficulties.

The activities of the event continued with the speech of Her Excellency Minister Mrs. Maryam Al-Misnad, who highlighted Qatar Charity's achievements up to date, despite all the challenges and difficulties the organization has faced on its way of project implementation. She stressed the importance of preserving human dignity and well-being, and the need to put the human being alone in mind when achieving the goals of humanitarian work. Her Excellency explained that humanitarian work requires everyone to be keen on achieving human dignity, as the human being is the centerpiece of all efforts that aims to serve them as well as to achieve their prosperity and development. It was emphasized that meeting human needs and requirements comes through listening to people's voices attentively, both at the local and global levels.

Mrs. Maryam Al-Misnad clarified that with the abundance of conflicts, disasters, crises, waves of displacement, and the effects of climate change that surround the human community from every direction, Qatar Charity is still racing against time to stop the suffering wherever it can be found.

At the conclusion of Her Excellency's speech, the Minister expressed gratitude to all the humanitarian and charitable soldiers in the State of Qatar, who continue their mission to serve a Qatari citizen, and to achieve his prosperity and growth in line with the Qatari National Vision and its strategy for 2020-2030. She also praised the efforts of charitable and humanitarian organizations of Qatar for their efforts that reach the whole world.

In turn, His Excellency Mr. Al Muraikhi contributed to the event's activities with a speech in which he referred to the release of the annual Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Program by the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the title

“Uncertain Times, Unstable Lives, and Shaping Our Future in a Transforming World.” He explained that, as the title suggests, the current situation the world is witnessing, from the Covid-19 pandemic to climate change, rising temperatures, fires, and an increase in armed conflicts, is a cause for concern. These setbacks constitute a major threat and an obstacle to achieving human development goals through their direct impact on rising commodity and energy prices, and thus increasing inflation. But there is – according to Al-Merikhi – an opportunity to shift towards achieving sustainable development goals, as mentioned by the UN Secretary-General in the annual report. He believes that this transformation can be attained by investing in public goods (that is, countries becoming less dependent on others to meet domestic demands and promoting a more sustainable world), expanding insurance through social security networks, and developing systems that arm individuals and families with the tools to deal with crises. Mr. Al Muraikhi encouraged to foster innovation in dynamic solutions, as we cannot rely on old solutions, tools and methods. He added that new partnerships made up of governmental and non-governmental associations must be discovered.

### **3. The Opening Symposium Speech: “The Relationship between Humanitarian Action, Development and Peace: “The Triple Nexus” Approach”**

The discussion panel that followed the release of the report began with a speech by Dr. Ghassan Al Kahlout on the relationship between humanitarian work, development, and peace, in which he noted that the world is currently facing multidimensional challenges that impede sustainable development. These challenges are clearly and increasingly related to the humanitarian conflicts and crises quantitatively and qualitatively. They become more complex by persisting for a long time and, therefore, lead to new larger crises whose effects are reflected in the world as a whole.

These challenges, along with protracted emergencies, climate change, internal displacement, and external asylum, which are exacerbating the humanitarian needs of millions of people who find themselves in a vulnerable situation overnight, require new approaches and solutions based on which future policies can be shaped.

In order to achieve the goals of the 2016 Humanitarian Summit, it was necessary to bring about a qualitative development in humanitarian policies to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian and development programs and build peace, especially with the increase in forced migration crises, represented by the two major refugee and displacement crises. According to Dr. Al Kahlout, the most prominent developmental concept of these policies is the shift from theorising to link relief with development to theorising by working with the “The Triple Nexus” approach, which means linking relief to development with peacebuilding.

Dr. Kahlout emphasized that the concept of “The Triple Nexus” has currently become one of the most important policy concepts in the field of humanitarian practices and academic

studies as well. This approach was presented as an initiative to reform the global aid structure and improve conflict response. However, it was adopted and adapted by institutions in the Arab region, which has made great strides in developing their own aid system outside the structure of the international aid system. When launched, “The Triple Nexus” approach was intended as a way to enhance coordination and synergy, while breaking down barriers between humanitarian action, development work and peacebuilding in the international system. It presented an integrative concept, recognizing that humanitarian and development assistance and peacebuilding in fragile states, were often provided in the absence of a comprehensive framework to address, for example, the drivers of conflict, the goal of building societal resilience, strengthening capacities, and reducing humanitarian needs.

The concept first emerged, according to Dr. Al Kahlout, in response to the shortcomings of the international aid system of traditional donor countries or the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD-DAC) Development Assistance Committee. Non-traditional donors (in the Arab Gulf region and some other donors) did not take this concept into consideration. Traditional donors with structural internal divides between humanitarian and development aid systems are advised to conduct a fundamental review of organizational structures in order to facilitate cooperation, interdependence, and complementarity among actors in the Nexus approach. By contrast, aid from non-traditional donors, as they are called, differs, with the focus in these countries on bilateral support to governments or spending on infrastructure projects. Thus, here is less difference in the gap between relief, development, and post-conflict recovery than with Western donors. Dr. Al Kahlout believes that Gulf states have generally approached this advantage to non-traditional donors, with a less clear delineation between the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding sectors. While the Gulf donors were not intended in the reforms related to “The Triple Nexus” approach, they nevertheless adopted some elements of coherent action. In some cases, we have begun to see that there are some Gulf organizations, Qatari ones in particular, which have adopted “The Triple Nexus” approach even before the humanitarian summit announced this approach, which makes studying this phenomenon worthwhile.

#### **4. Arab and International Experiences on “The Triple Nexus” Approach**

The discussion session began with remarks made by Mr. Mohammed Ali Al-Ghamdi, Chief Governance Officer and Director of External Affairs Office at Qatar Charity, noting that the new concept of "Nexus" in the Arab world raises a considerable controversy about its definition, purpose and applications on the ground. At the same time, according to Mr. Al-Ghamdi, there is no specific term in the Arab region that translates the concept of "Nexus". Although the debates about the necessity of a new way of working in the field of humanitarian action rose in 2016, that did not witness a reflection of such method in the Arab world. In the context, he referred to the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies' interest in the concept of “The Triple Nexus” and its achievements in research on this matter. The speaker highly encouraged researchers and scholars to find an Arabic term that translates what is



meant by “nexus”, taking into consideration how it is used on the ground, and how it is reflected in humanitarian work.

Mr. Al-Ghamdi believes that the growing services which the world needs, and what Qatar Charity provides, is a natural response from two premises: humanitarian work and the cultural heritage in the region.

The spokesman explained that individual reform efforts in light of the increase in conflict rates, protracted crises, instability, climate change, and natural disasters around the world, will not work. This requires organizations and donors to review the resource allocation mechanisms in order to include both immediate response and development. He highlighted that Qatar Charity has allocated 84% of its expenditures to development. In a prolonged crisis, such as what is happening in Syria, thinking about development is a better return to the beneficiaries. Mr. Al-Ghamdi referred to the many experiences in which Qatar Charity has participated in order to support stability and build peace, and among these examples is Qatar Charity's experience in supporting the wheat chain in northern Syria, which is a successful experiment carried out in coordination and joint cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). He explained that this measure, which was based on supporting farmers and bakeries, was intended to support the economic cycle and revive the economy in order to provide a decent life for the beneficiaries. In addition, there are other initiatives and projects that have been carried out in accordance with “The Triple Nexus” approach, such as the initiative to support education launched by the Qatar Fund for Development (maintaining education in Syria), as well as the pioneering experience of Qatar Charity in Darfur and Sudan. These experiences indicate that Qatar Charity's participation is effective within conflict environments through the application of the “The Triple Nexus” framework, and therefore, the intervention has not been limited to immediate relief and traditional intervention.

The panel discussion continued as the floor was passed on to Mr. Biplove Choudhary, Technical Representative and Head of the UNDP Office in Qatar. He initially expressed his admiration for the achievements of Qatar Charity presented in the annual impact report. He stressed that one of the most important foundations of “The Triple Nexus” is to listen to people's voices, needs and aspirations in a way that preserves their human dignity. He also pointed out that the newly released Human Development Report, on 8 September 2022, addressed the decline in human development rates, which indicates an urgent need to support the humanitarian system. He added that there is a large gap in the humanitarian aid system represented in the insufficient response provided. In the last five years, 183 million people out of 274 million people in need of humanitarian assistance were supported, and therefore, there is an urgent need to make additional efforts, such as those made by Qatar Charity and Qatar Development Organization, on the part of the actors in the system, in order to provide aid and allocations within the framework of “The Triple Nexus”: Humanitarian Action, Development and Peacebuilding.

The speaker highlighted that there are some unknown aspects that hover around the concept of “The Triple Nexus”. Through his experience in Myanmar and South Sudan, he noted that the displaced assert that the humanitarian response must focus on preserving human dignity, which requires the integration between humanitarian assistance, development work and peacebuilding to ensure this. He added that people also want to help themselves, which calls for the participation of societal forces in decision-making within the humanitarian system.

Concluding the speech, he reiterated his appreciation to Qatar Fund for Development and Qatar Charity for their contribution in supporting the United Nations Development Program to enhance the application of “The Triple Nexus” approach and transform this theory into a reality in Afghanistan.

## **5. Q&A Session**

The panel discussion was followed by a question-and-answer session that included discussion of various topics related to the “The Triple Nexus” approach: the relationship between humanitarian work, development and peace. While answering a question about evaluating Qatar Charity’s interventions during 2021 in terms of linking humanitarian aid, development, and peace, Mr. Mohammed Al-Ghamdi said that the “The Triple Nexus” approach was not fully adopted by Qatar Charity due to several factors that affect the application of this approach on the ground. He noted that for its full implementation organizations and countries must be prepared for “The Triple Nexus” process. He added that projects that fall under the concept of “The Triple Nexus” involve significant costs, which may differ with the culture of the donor and the donor who wants to see quick results. He also said that to adopt this approach, there must be a willingness on the part of the donors to sufficiently and comprehensively finance the projects that fall under the concept of “The Triple Nexus”.

Addressing the question about the vision of the United Nations Development Program for the “The Triple Nexus” approach, Mr. Biplove Choudhary replied that the concept implies complementing the humanitarian response in other aspects, stressing that the implementation of this approach requires a serious commitment from actors in the international humanitarian system. He added that this approach means looking at how to respond urgently, while paving the way for future engagement, with a focus on improving infrastructure. For example, irrigation projects have good results in terms of people’s resilience and willingness, while social cohesion projects contribute to bridging the gaps necessary to work within “The Triple Nexus” approach.

## **6. Main Messages**

In general, the event witnessed a presentation of the annual impact report of Qatar Charity and the achievements it accomplished during 2021, as well as a fruitful discussion between a group of representatives of the humanitarian, charitable and developmental work system in Qatar along with representatives of international organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, on the best practices that must be developed within the humanitarian



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system, whether at the internal, regional, or international level. The panel discussion presented a general background on the development of the “The Triple Nexus” concept, and the importance of its implementation on the ground, while preserving and safeguarding human dignity. Multiple experiences in light of “The Triple Nexus” were presented for the first time, especially the experiences of Qatari humanitarian organizations, most notably Qatar Charity and the Qatar Fund for Development.

It is noteworthy that the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies is one of the first Arab independent research institutions that discusses this concept in the Arab world in order to keep pace with the developments in the global humanitarian system, and to produce pure Arab knowledge in this regard.

Finally, the discussion emphasized the importance of embracing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus during the performance of humanitarian work, while strengthening the capacities of local communities in an integrative manner within the framework of “The Triple Nexus” in countries affected by crises in order to provide effective solutions in the long term.

The event was held in attendance at the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, and it was broadcast live through the social media platforms of the Center and Qatar Charity on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, with simultaneous translation between Arabic and English.