

Qatar

March 2026

Qatar is a **prominent actor on the regional and global humanitarian and development stage**. It also plays an increasing diplomatic role as a political mediator in the region and beyond.

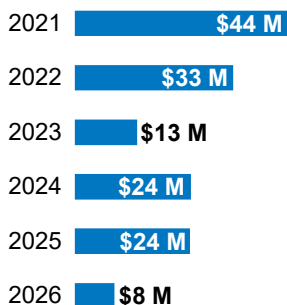
While a small country with a population of about 3 million, mostly expatriates, Qatar is one of the wealthiest nations due to its vast natural gas reserves.

Qatar remains a strong partner to UNHCR, both in terms of advocacy and support to programmes worldwide. It has been a **top donor** to UNHCR since 2019 (except for 2023), thanks to contributions from government entities, including through multi-year funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD).

Qatar contributes to numerous UNHCR operations globally, with a focus on the Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine situations, as well as the Rohingya refugees. Priority areas include **education, health care, shelter, cash assistance, and livelihoods**, with increased focus on innovative financing, sustainable interventions, and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

QATAR FUNDING TO UNHCR

Funding in USD millions:

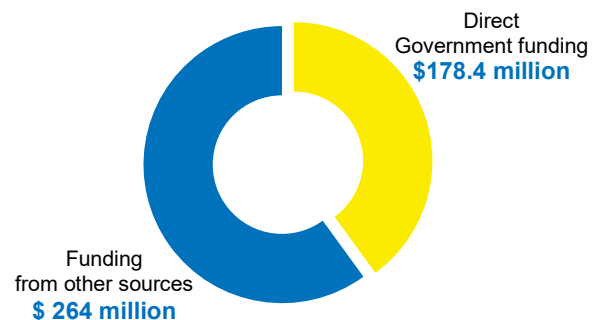


* 2026 funding is as of 31 March 2026.

FUNDING CONTRIBUTED 2010-2026

\$ 442.4 million

as of 31 March 2026



UNHCR PRESENCE

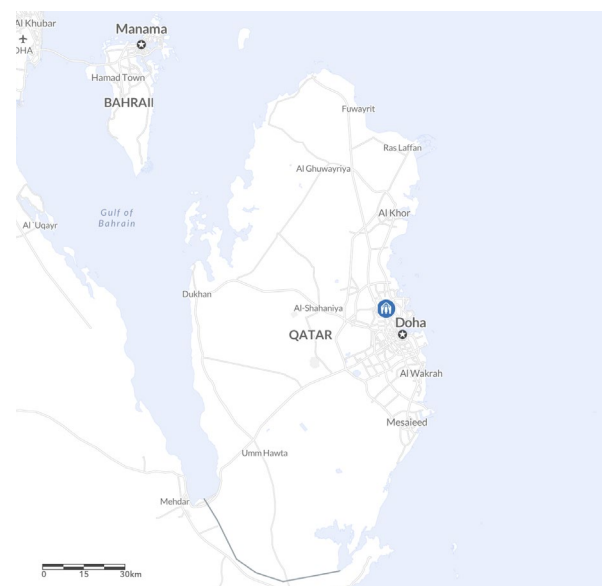
Staff:

- 5 Local Staff
- 4 International Staff

Office:

UNHCR's office in Qatar is hosted inside the UN House in **Lusail**, offered by MOFA and inaugurated in March 2023.

This followed the signing of a Host Country Agreement between UNHCR and the State of Qatar in December 2018, which established the framework for UNHCR's presence in the country.



Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation

- Qatar's **MOFA** is one of UNHCR's main government partners. It offers UNHCR furnished office space within the UN House in Doha and supports its operations inside Qatar through a multi-year contribution. MOFA has also facilitated access to hard-to-reach areas through airlifts of UNHCR Core Relief Items (CRIs) to Beirut, Lebanon, in November 2024, and to Kabul, Afghanistan, at the end of 2021.
- In December 2025, UNHCR and the **Ministry of Interior** signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support the implementation of Qatar's Political Asylum Law, passed in 2018, by providing legal and technical expertise to develop and enforce national asylum procedures. As the first country to enact asylum legislation in the region, the aim is to lay the foundation for positioning Qatar as a center of excellence in protection.
- UNHCR also maintains a close and strategic partnership with **QFFD**, the government's humanitarian and development arm, in support of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) globally, including in Bangladesh, Chad, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, South Sudan, Ukraine, and beyond. Since 2018, QFFD has supported UNHCR's work with flexible funding, as well as the provision of cash assistance, education, health care, shelter, CRIs, winter support, and livelihoods.
- UNHCR engages with other government entities, including the **Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities**, an independent governmental body that regulates all fundraising activities in Qatar, as well as the **National Human Rights Committee**.
- Since 2012, UNHCR has partnered with **Educate A Child**, a global programme of **Education Above All** Foundation, enabling more than 1.4 million out-of-school refugee children to access quality primary education across 16 countries in Africa, Asia, MENA, and the Americas.
- **Qatar Charity** is also a strategic partner to UNHCR, with support provided to programmes for refugees and IDPs spanning numerous countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen.
- **Sheikh Thani bin Abdullah bin Thani Al Thani** is a prominent partner of UNHCR, and the organization's largest individual donor. He was named 'UNHCR Eminent Advocate' in 2019 and again in 2022 in recognition of his significant support to refugees and IDPs globally through UNHCR.
- UNHCR has received several contributions from the **Qatar Red Crescent Society** since 2014, with support provided to operations in Djibouti, Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye, and Yemen.
- **Eid Charity**, another strong supporter of UNHCR, has funded projects to assist refugees in Bangladesh, Lebanon, and Jordan, as well as IDPs in Iraq, Somalia, and Yemen.
- Since 2020, UNHCR has partnered with **Qatar Airways**, the state-owned flag carrier, to make use of their fleet for shipment of CRIs to country operations around the world based on needs.

CONTACTS

Dalia Atallah, External Relations Officer
atallahd@unhcr.org, Cell +974 3376 4906

Abdulla Al-Khuzaei, Associate External Relations Officer
alkhuzae@unhcr.org, Cell +974 5075 4976

LINKS

<https://www.unhcr.org/qa/> • <http://www.unhcr-arabic.org> • [@UNHCR_GCC](#) • [@UNHCR_Arabic](#)